

THIS REQUIRES THE SIGNATURE OF TWO EMPLOYEES.

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1998 CPI: 8.6% December index rises 0.1%

By JESSICA STEINBERG

Consumer prices increased 8.6 percent in 1998, after the consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.1 percent in December, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Friday.

The actual index rose to 166.3 points in December from 166.2 points in November and 153.1 points in December 1997.

Inflation's final level for 1998 is at the middle range of the government's 7% to 10% target for the year, but higher than the previous year's 7% rate, which had been the lowest in 28 years.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said recently he wants to raise the 1999 inflation target to between 5% and 7%, retreating from the current 4% target, in the hope of compelling the Bank of Israel to cut interest rates.

Friday's news is likely to "strengthen the belief that we're headed toward low inflation," Yigal Shohet, chief economist at Glick Securities & Investments Ltd., told Bloomberg Business News.

Shohet predicted that this year's inflation will decline to 5%.

Housing prices rose 2.3% in 1998 compared to 1997's 1.9% increase,

while fruits and vegetables rose 0.4% in 1998, compared to a 0.3% rise in 1997.

The increase in health-care costs remained at 0.4% as clothing and footwear appreciated 0.3%, compared to their 0.2% percent fall during 1997.

In December, the cost of housing fell by 1.2%, produce prices decreased by 2.3%, and food prices rose 1.1%, while clothing costs climbed 2.2% and home upkeep costs rose 0.7%.

Prices in the general basket of goods increased 8.9% for families placed in the country's lowest income strata, while increasing only 8.5% for the top fifth.

January's CPI, to be reported on February 15, will be slightly different, said CBS spokesman David Neumann, since the method of calculating the housing component will be changed.

Until now, the index's housing component was dominated by prices of new apartments and houses. As of this month, most of the housing index - over 80% - will be based on rental prices.

Neumann added that there is a great deal of uncertainty as to how the index will perform with the changes in price weightings.

So much left to do

Inflation would have been much higher last year, but for the prudence of former finance minister Yankov Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel. However, it would have been significantly lower, but for the infamous economic constraints created by a narrow coalition government.

Inflation would have been higher if, back when the shekel was being battered last fall, the Treasury and central bank had heeded the advice of various hysterical pundits and intervened in currency trading. Such a move would have convinced ordinary Israelis that their currency, and those in charge of issuing it and upholding its value, are not worth the confidence we have learned to place in them.

The result would have been an Asian-style run on the shekel, involving not just certain parts of the business sector but thousands of households as well. Consequently, the shekel would have shed much more than the 18 percent it lost against the dollar during 1998, and consumer prices - which in this country are more import-sensitive than in most developed economies - would easily have hit economically unaffordable and politically disastrous double-digit figures.

Fortunately, Frenkel - with Neeman's tacit support - allowed the traders to do their number, and then did his, by hiking interest rates an aggregate 4% within two weeks.

Still, the government's successful treatment of the Asian flu's local symptoms could offer no substitute for the triple-bypass surgery which it failed to perform, and which this economy clearly craves.

That operation would have meant accelerated privatization, including such behemoths as the Israel Electric Corporation, Bezeq, and El Al, breaking up monopolies like Edged and the Ports Authority, and sharply cutting our exorbitant tax rates, which remain among the

world's highest, even after Netanyahu's verbal Thatcherism was given a golden opportunity to be transformed into deeds.

Why all these things did not happen is well known - each such move would have provoked a pressure group, often one with inroads into, if not fully fledged membership in, the coalition. And yet, only such thorough treatment of our economic ailments would expand and diversify supplies in this economy, to an extent which in turn would be reflected in low single-digit inflation levels.

Similarly, only that kind of restructuring dynamics would have enticed the private sector to generate more jobs.

Unemployment, to be sure, is no longer on the rise, after momentarily crossing the 9% barrier at one point last year; media reports last week suggesting a sharp rise in joblessness fell prey to the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's professionally questionable and politically tendentious job-seekers data.

Still, the Central Bureau of Statistics' impartial and reliable figures indicate that 8.6% of the workforce were jobless last year, which is a third more than the jobless rate was when Netanyahu entered office.

That 8.6%, coupled with inflation's 8.6%, means that the economic task ahead of the upcoming elections winner will be daunting, no matter who he is.

Indeed, the only way to achieve that bypass surgery would be by taking to task all the pressure groups which this government and its predecessors were afraid to confront, and the only way to achieve that would be through a Likud-Labor coalition that would sideline our assorted recipients of tax breaks, budget transfers, and corporate welfare. Judging by Israeli precedent, this will ultimately happen - but not before calamity is its day.

Serbs massacre 45 in Kosovo

By MELISSA EDDY

RACAK, Yugoslavia (AP) - The bodies of dozens of Kosovo Albanians were found outside a village yesterday, many of them mutilated, the day after a fierce attack by Serb forces.

The head of the international monitors in Kosovo blamed Yugoslav security forces for an atrocity in which he said 45 ethnic Albanians had been killed.

William Walker, the American head of the Kosovo Verification Mission, told a news conference the massacre violated pledges made by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in October to avert threatened NATO air strikes.

"The facts as verified by KVM include evidence of arbitrary detentions, extra-judicial killings, and the mutilation of unarmed civilians of Albanian ethnic origin in the village of Racak," Walker said in the Kosovo regional capital, Pristina.

United Nations chief war crimes prosecutor Louise Arbour will head a mission to Kosovo to investigate the alleged slaughter, a spokesman said yesterday.

US President Bill Clinton condemned the killings of civilians and said there is no justification for the "deliberate and indiscriminate act of murder. I condemn in the strongest possible terms the massacre of civilians by the Serb security forces."

It was the worst killing spree since an October truce largely halted more than seven months of combat in Serbia's separatist province, and perhaps the most savage of the nearly year-long conflict.

The informal cease-fire, which international officials have insisted is still largely intact, is now in the most danger yet of collapsing into a resumption of the province

wide fighting that devastated Kosovo in 1998.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana strongly condemned the "massacre of Kosovo Albanians" and warned that the alliance "will not tolerate a return to all-out fighting and a policy of repression in Kosovo. I express my outrage and revulsion at this deliberate and senseless killing of ordinary civilians," he said in a statement issued in Brussels, Belgium.

Reporters and international verifiers who were prevented from reaching the besieged area around Racak the previous day saw the massacred bodies yesterday lying scattered on a hillside and in ravines.

Some had their eyes gouged out or heads smashed in, and one man lay decapitated in the courtyard of his compound.

The dead included one young woman and a 12-year-old boy and many were older men, including one of age 70.

All wore civilian clothing, and verifiers said many had been shot at close range. The news agency run by Kosovo Liberation Army rebels, Kosovo Press, reported 46 dead, eight of them KLA fighters.

Serbian police said they had killed "tens of terrorists" after coming under mortar and automatic weapons fire while trying to arrest guerrilla suspects for the murder of a policeman.

Police insisted most of the dead wore uniforms bearing the KLA insignia.

The ethnic Albanians' Kosovo Information Center reported that government forces were using heavy artillery and tanks yesterday in a new offensive against three rebel-held villages in western Kosovo.

See KOSOVO, Page 3



A young ethnic Albanian weeps yesterday as he recognizes a relative among the bodies of Racak villagers found in a ditch. (Reuters)

Forged documents weaken Ohana's claim of 'legal scandal'

By HAT COLLINS

The "Corrupt Cop Case" turned around over the weekend to become the "False Evidence Affair." The police National Fraud Squad has opened an intensive investigation into who is behind the forged documents filed by Yehiam Ohana in his request for a retrial for a drug offense 17 years ago.

Police have summoned Ohana for questioning today.

"Someone tried to initiate a process which would have harmed the legal system, a senior judge, the police, and police credibility," said Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk on Friday.

The case burst into the limelight last week in a report by Ben Caspit in *Ma'ariv*, which said Attorney-General Eliyahu Rubinstein is

istic immunity.

The material Ohana submitted claimed to show that he had been framed by police officers with the help of lawyers, including his own defense counsel, who had allegedly blackmailed a judge into convicting him with the aim of blocking the appointment of an outsider to a top police position in the North.

Ohana claimed the judge was being blackmailed over his rape of a 17-year-old girl who was later sent abroad.

Some 80 police officers, led by Cmdr. Miri Golan, worked on the case Friday and last night. Ohana did not turn up for investigation Friday, arriving at the police station at only 2 a.m. yesterday. But he did hold a late-night press conference.

Ohana said he had not forged any documents, "but it could be they were planted."

harm him. He did not, however, deny that some of the material given to Porat "could have been forged."

Police worked on the case until late Friday and resumed investigations last night in an attempt to stop those being questioned from coordinating their versions of the stories and getting rid of evidence.

Ohana's lawyer and friends are also being questioned. His lawyer at the time, Dror Hoter-Ishai, who is now head of the Bar Association, has denied writing the letter Ohana claimed he wrote stating he had been framed.

Similarly, Supreme Court Justice Dorit Beinisch denies endorsing the letter in which Hoter-Ishai implicated himself, when she was a state attorney.

Other forged documents include

House team: Clinton guilty of 'high crimes'

By HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

WASHINGTON - The House of Representatives prosecutors in President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial last night concluded their arguments for his removal from office, paving the way for the White House's defense before the Senate, beginning Tuesday.

The prosecutors told senators yesterday that Clinton's conduct in the Monica Lewinsky affair met the constitutional test of "high crimes and misdemeanors" and warranted removal from office.

Refuting what they described as the White House's "so what?" defense - that Clinton's actions in the Lewinsky case, while wrong, were not impeachable - prosecutors said the crimes of perjury and obstruction of justice were enough to clear any possible legal hurdle for removal.

In a dramatic summation, lead prosecutor Henry Hyde told the Senate that the presidency could be "permanently damaged" if Clinton is not removed.

In prepared remarks ending the prosecutors' opening arguments, Hyde said the framers of the Constitution knew the presidency could be "gravely damaged if it continued to be unworthily occupied."

"If on impeachment, the president is not convicted and removed from office despite the fact that numerous senators are convinced that he has egregiously failed the test of his oath of office, violated the trust of the American people and dishonored the office ... then the office of the presidency has been deeply, and perhaps permanently damaged," Hyde said.

"Perjury and obstruction of justice are not private acts, these are public crimes, and therefore are quintessential impeachable offenses," Representative Steve Buyer, an Indiana Republican, said.

Trial draws yawns, Page 4

The case is being recessed tomorrow due to the celebration of Martin Luther King's Birthday, which is a federal holiday.

The impeachment trial infringed on the Shabbat observance of Joseph Lieberman, a Democrat from Connecticut who



President Bill Clinton practices yesterday for his State of the Union address on Tuesday, coached by White House staffer Michael Waldman. (Reuters)

is the only Orthodox Jew in the Senate.

"It's obviously not going to be the kind of Sabbath I normally like to spend, but I think we can, you know, work it out," said Lieberman, who won't answer the phone, ride in an elevator or turn on a light during Shabbat.

Yet, Lieberman says his responsibility as a juror in Clinton's impeachment trial comes before his personal preferences, even in matters of religion.

See CLINTON, Page 3

IDF targets 21 dates

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Brig-Gen. Nissim Alfia, head of the IDF's computerization division, paints a nightmarish picture of the havoc that could reign during the coming year as the millennium bug threatens to strike.

His department has designated

21 dates on which critical failure may occur.

There have been predictions other countries of nuclear war suddenly being released from silos next New Year's Day; widespread blackouts and total communication failures.

In Israel, the likely scenario that public utilities may fail, leaving the country without electricity and communications.

The IDF has spent the past few years increasing awareness of the bug's potential to do damage, trying to remedy the problem.



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NEWS

in brief

Landau drops out of Likud race

MK Uzi Landau announced Friday that he had withdrawn from the race for leadership of the Likud, saying that Moshe Arens had a better chance of beating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The move reduced the battle at Likud's January 25 primaries to a contest between Netanyahu and Arens, who announced last Monday that he would challenge his old protegee for the party leadership.

Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said his decision would boost Arens' prospects but declined to say he would back him.

"I haven't said at this time who I would support," Landau told Israel Radio. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Homes of 5 Barak activists robbed

The homes of five activists in Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak's election campaign have been burglarized recently, Israel Radio reported last night.

The report did not give details about what was stolen. The break-ins follow a burglary at the offices of Barak's Washington campaign advisers last week. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Kach activist arrested

The General Security Service and Jerusalem police arrested a Kach activist on suspicion he belongs to a terrorist organization and was illegally organizing.

The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Friday permitted publication of the arrest of Shimon Hen, 24, which took place last week.

Police said that Hen, a resident of Mitze Yericho, planned to purchase weapons and use them for terrorist purposes. Publication of other details of the investigation are forbidden. *Amy Klein*

Romanian defense minister visits

Romanian Defense Minister Victor Babuc arrives tomorrow for a two-day official visit.

Israeli defense companies such as Elbit Systems are upgrading Romania's MiG-21 fleet to NATO standards under a \$330 million contract. Elbit is also converting 40 of Romania's French-made Puma transport helicopters to attack configuration. Romania is keen on joining NATO and wants to bring its army up to NATO levels. *Ariel O'Sullivan*

Greece apologizes for Orient House visit

The Greek government sent Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon a letter of apology, after Sharon criticized the visit of Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Yannis Kranidiotis to Palestinian personalities in Jerusalem's Orient House last week, Sharon's office said yesterday. Kranidiotis's visit raised Sharon's ire and a letter of complaint was sent out. *Danna Harman*

Youth killed in Ashkelon knife fight

Avi Keren, 19, from Ashkelon, died after a beachfront knife fight yesterday involving several youths from rival gangs. Four others were wounded. All five had spent the evening in a restaurant and were under the influence of alcohol, police said. The restaurant had no permit to serve spirits and police closed it for a month pending an investigation. *Itim*

Fuel prices rise

Gasoline and other fuel prices rose last night at midnight, the National Infrastructure Ministry announced. Some of the new rates: 96 octane gas rose 1.47 percent to NIS 3.44 per liter; 95 octane, lead-free gas rose 1.78% to NIS 3.44; home heating fuel and diesel fuel for public transportation both rose 10.73%; light crude rose 16.64%; heavy oil for industry and electric power rose 19.29%; bitumen for road paving rose 18.5%. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Man arrested for threatening justices

By AMY KLEIN

"Justice will only be served when the judges are dead," read one of the letters found in the house of a Bnei Brak resident, who was arrested Friday on suspicion he had threatened three Supreme Court justices.

Jerusalem police arrested Hillel Wertheimer, 23, after he allegedly called the offices of Supreme Court Justices Dorit Beinisch, Yitzhak Zamir and Mishael Cheshin on Thursday and said abusive and vicious things about them.

Police investigators testified in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court on Friday that they found threatening letters in the suspect's home that were apparently meant for the justices.

The letters read "When you die, you will get judged on your actions," and "The judges are evil, and we must pay them back in this world and the world to come."

The letters contained hints that the suspect posed a threat to the justices, investigators said, as they included comments like: "There is a need to do something," and "God will pay you."

Judge Yoram Noam extended Wertheimer's remand until tomorrow, saying the letters found in his house constitute a "real threat."

Police believe that the threats were related to recent rulings by the justices on religious issues.

Last Monday, Beinisch, Zamir and Cheshin, sitting as the High Court of Justice, ruled that the Haifa Religious Council, which now includes Reform and Conservative members, must convene by tomorrow.

Police are investigating if other people were involved in making the threatening phone calls and in penning the letters. The police have also beefed up patrols around the houses of the three judges, who live in Jerusalem. *Itim contributed to this report.*

Mordechai confirms security meetings with PA officials

By Danna Harman

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has been holding meetings with the heads of the Palestinian security services over the past two weeks, his office confirmed yesterday.

The purpose of the meetings, according to Mordechai, was to strengthen the military and security coordination between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the field, as well as to keep the intelligence channels open and primed despite the virtual freeze in the implementation of the Wye Memorandum.

"There is a need to create a mechanism whereby, in times of crisis, we will be able

to talk and work rapidly to resolve problems," said Mordechai's spokesman, Avi Benayahu. He added that there is a strategic need to hold the ground already covered with the PA — and not allow for a deterioration in the security level.

Mordechai's meeting with the Palestinian security officials began two weeks ago when he met with Gaza security chief Mohammed Dahlan in a Tel Aviv hotel. Last week he met with West Bank security chief Jibril Rajoub near Jerusalem, and hosted senior Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) at his home in Motza. A source who was present at the meetings

said they were conducted in a positive atmosphere.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman, Aviv Bushinsky, said that Mordechai's meetings were all arranged with Netanyahu's knowledge and approval.

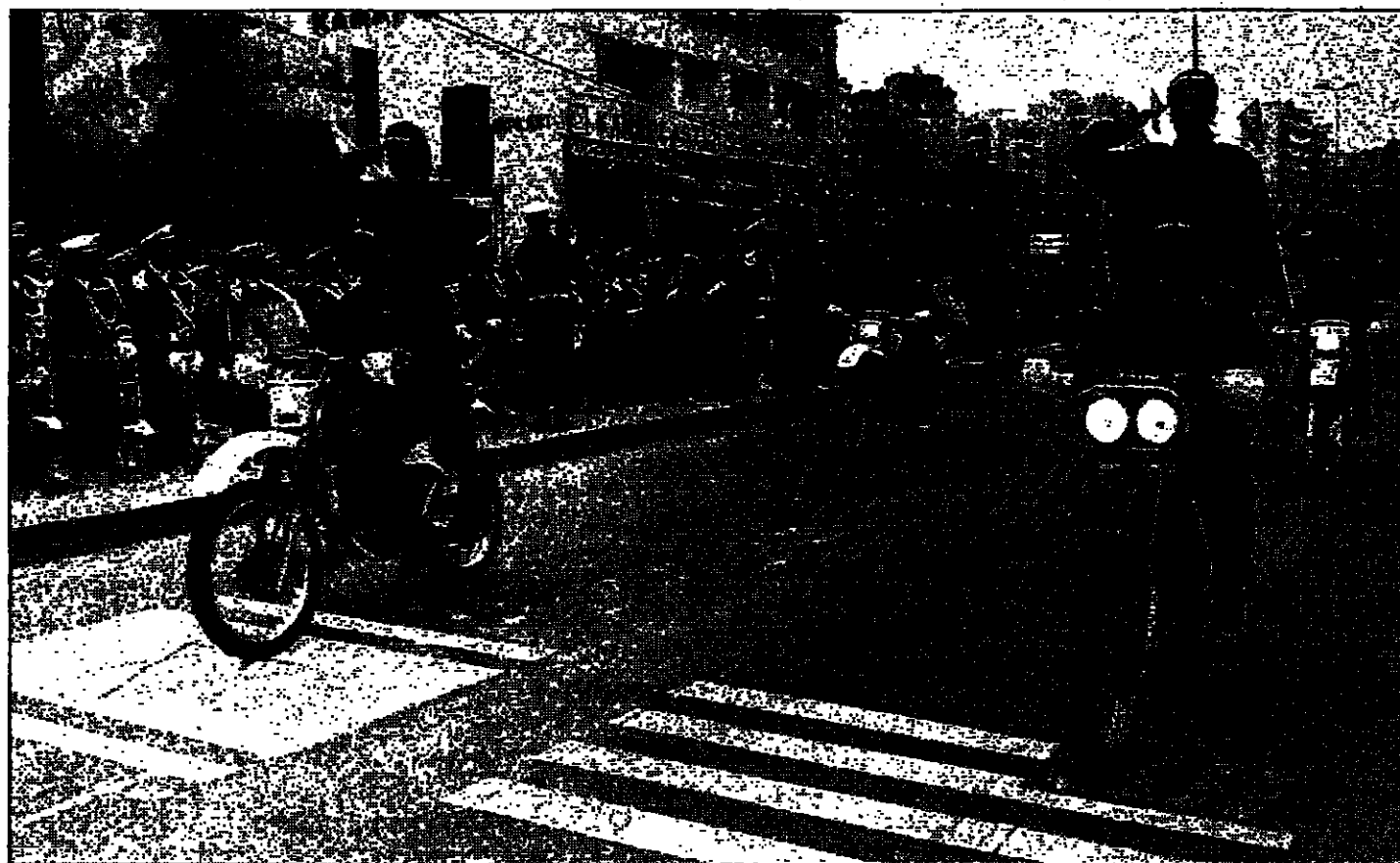
He further said that while the government stood by its charge that the Palestinians were still not fulfilling their security commitments, they had not stopped coordinating with Israel.

"There is coordination, but it is not complete, or satisfactory on higher levels," said Bushinsky.

In a separate development, Mordechai

received a letter from US President Bill Clinton thanking him for the constructive role he played at the Wye Plantation talks in October. "The outcome of Wye goes to show that with good will and political courage it is possible to resolve even the most complex problems between the Palestinians and the Israelis," wrote Clinton, who was responding to a letter from Mordechai in which he thanked the president for his involvement in the Wye process.

"An equal amount of good will and courage is needed now, when the parties need to move forward and implement the agreement reached," Clinton added.



Hizbullah activists on motorcycles ride over American and Israeli flags during a rally in a Beirut suburb on Friday to mark 'Al-Quds Day,' a protest against Israel's reunification of Jerusalem. (AP)

IAF continues Lebanon air strikes

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israeli warplanes repeatedly pounded targets in Lebanon over the weekend as the IAF stepped up its attacks for the third and fourth days in a row. No casualties were reported in any of the attacks.

In Beirut, Hizbullah leaders vowed to continue their attacks against IDF and SLA soldiers in the security zone.

Speaking at a rally to mark "Al-Quds Day," Hizbullah secretary-general Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, said it did not matter who won the election in Israel, as all parties were enemies of Hizbullah.

"Those competing to head the enemy's government are the same bunch of terrorists, killers and racists who killed our people in 1993 and 1996," he told the rally.

While he said that "liberating Jerusalem is a duty," he refrained from saying that Hizbullah fighters would take their war over Israel's northern border.

"We are fighting invading occupying troops."

Nasrallah was quoted as saying, "The war of attrition against the enemy will continue...until we force it to withdraw without any conditions."

Yesterday, warplanes attacked the Soujoud ridge and Mazra'a at Okmata in the western sector. These attacks came after successive raids on the Ikrim al-Touffah region, from where Hizbullah gunmen often launch their attacks.

Reports from Lebanon said two jets fired at least two air-to-surface missiles on the highlands of the Hizbullah stronghold. Black smoke billowed from the area around the deserted village of Miita, but it was not immediately clear if the missiles hit the bases in the 9 a.m. air strike.

About half an hour later, two jets fired missiles at a valley between the Shi'ite Muslim villages of Yater and Jibal al-Boutoun near the port city of Tyre, Lebanese officials told AP.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the two raids. Similar raids were conducted on Friday.

Yesterday was the fourth consecutive day that the IAF has struck in Lebanon and the 11th so

far this year.

There was mortar fire along the whole front and one IDF position was damaged on Friday. There were no reports of damage from mortar fire yesterday.

Hizbullah said in a statement from Beirut that its forces had staged 15 hit-and-run attacks against IDF and SLA positions.

Earlier, SLA forces late Thursday detected and neutralized two roadside charges in Lebanon, near the villages of Shwayya and Shiba, close to Hazbiya in the security zone. It was the second time last week that SLA forces successfully detected bombs laid by Hizbullah. Military sources said that the bombs had been set by Hizbullah to strike at the Lebanese militiamen.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern is due in Lebanon today on an official visit. Accompanied by European Union's Middle East envoy Miguel Moratinos, Ahern is expected to visit the 500-strong Irish contingent of the UNIFIL peacekeepers in south Lebanon.

News agencies contributed to this report.

Millions of Iranians slam Israel during 'Al-Quds Day'

TEHERAN (AP) — Several million Moslems held rallies across Iran and in Arab capitals Friday to protest Israel's continued hold on Jerusalem.

The demonstrations for "Al-Quds Day" also spilled over into anti-American protests because of US support for Israel.

The largest demonstrations by far were held in Iran, where more than three million people rallied in the major cities. In Teheran, hundreds of thousands attended a

rally.

A resolution was read out calling for struggle "until the aggressor Zionist regime is annihilated."

A banner carried a slogan by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini: "Quds [Jerusalem] is part of Islam's body." In 1979, Khomeini declared the last Friday of Ramadan as "Al-Quds Day," a day of protest to show the importance of Jerusalem to Moslems.

Jerusalem is the third holiest site in Islam, after Mecca and Medina.

"There is no country named Israel. There is Palestine, and the thieves who have occupied the houses of Palestinians should be removed from those houses," Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri told worshippers at Friday prayers.

A demonstrator disguised as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was beaten by others in Teheran dressed as Palestinian youths.

PA welcomes Lebanese refugee travel decision

By BEN LYMPFIELD

Palestinian Authority officials yesterday applauded a decision by the Lebanese government that enables Palestinian refugees to leave Lebanon for work or other reasons without losing their residency.

This decision is very important for all of the Palestinians in Lebanon," said Walid Zakout, director-general of the Negotiations Affairs Department of the P.A. There are 350,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Most trace their roots to the Galilee, and many have relatives there.

Since 1948, Lebanese law has restricted Palestinians from holding jobs in teaching, engineering, and other professions, a situation that forced many to work abroad, especially in Gulf countries. Three years ago, however, Lebanon instituted a new policy which made it difficult for Palestinians to travel abroad without losing their residency in Lebanon.

"We have many unemployed Palestinians in Lebanon, who need

jobs outside, now they can have free movement," said Zakout.

The decision was taken last week in Beirut by the government, of Prime Minister Selim Hoss, statement issued by the PA cabinet and members of the PLC Executive Committee, after meeting in Ramallah Saturday night, conveyed "profound appreciation" to Lebanon for allowing free travel "until the issue of the Palestinian refugees is solved."

The cabinet and executive committee grouping, known as al-ayyada, the leadership, called on Israel to halt what it termed a "settlement assault" in Jerusalem at Jebel Abu Ghneim (the Arabic name for Har Homa) and Ras al-Amud, in Hebron at Tel Rumeida, and in the Bethlehem area.

Referring to the American Jewish financier of a Jewish building project at Ras al-Amud, Irving Moskowitz, al-ayyada said, "the leadership condemns the activities of Moskowitz and others and calls on the Israeli government to halt these provocations, as well as the other settlement activities that have fueled indignation and anger among all Palestinians."

CORRECTION

The border policeman killed Wednesday night was First Sergeant Eshua Gavriel and not as published in Friday's paper.

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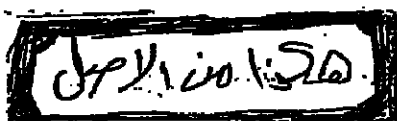
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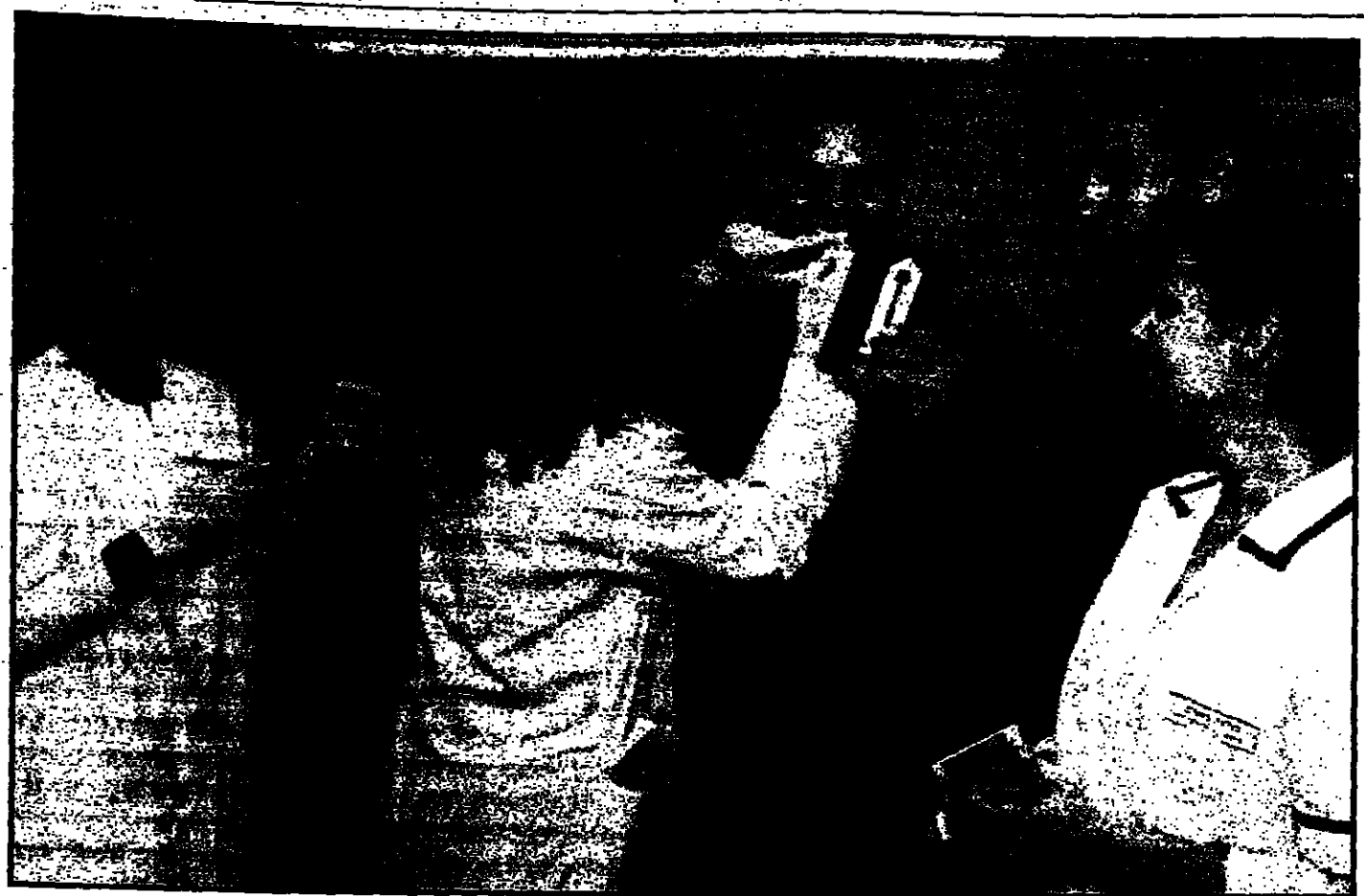
deeply mourn the passing of

RUDA SCHULHOF

a devoted friend of the Museum from its earliest years.

We share our profound condolences with his wife Hanne, his children Thomas, Michael, Wendy and their families.





Happy teeth

A Golani Brigade soldier trusts his mouth to a student in the dental hygienists' course run by the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine last week. The young women removed plaque from some 70 soldiers' teeth and taught them how to maintain proper oral hygiene, in a project initiated by student Carmel Bazak.

Senators shoot down Pollard clemency

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Nearly 60 senators urged President Bill Clinton not to free Jonathan Pollard from federal prison, echoing sentiments from the US intelligence and military communities and the US State Department.

"Any grant of clemency would now be viewed as an acquiescence to external political pressures and a vindication of Pollard's specious claims of unfairness and victimization," the senators wrote in a letter delivered to Clinton late Wednesday, on the eve of the president's impeachment trial in the Senate.

The letter to Clinton was initiated by Richard Shelby, the Alabama Republican who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee and who has long opposed clemency for Pollard. Among the 58 signing the letter were Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Jesse Helms and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott.

Although Clinton is not bound to heed the request of the Senate, it appeared that the senators' letter virtually sealed Pollard's fate. Granting clemency to Pollard would mean opposition to the same senators who are handling the impeachment process, as well as defying the wishes of the CIA, FBI,

Pentagon, and State Department. Clinton sought recommendations about Pollard after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during the Wye River talks, asked the White House for clemency on his behalf.

Still unknown is the recommendation of the Justice Department. Attorney General Janet Reno said Thursday that the agency, which has opposed Pollard's release, would be willing "to hear from Mr. Pollard's representatives." The plea for a meeting came in a letter to the White House last week from Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman, and Harvard University law professor Alan Dershowitz.

US citizens win right to Holocaust reparations

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Some 230 American citizens held in Nazi concentration camps have been approved for reparations from Germany and will share up to \$25 million, the US and Germany confirmed at week's end.

The compensation stems from the 1995 victory of Hugo Prinz, an American citizen who survived detention in a concentration camp for some 36 months and who decades later successfully won the right to sue the German government for its failure to provide him with reparations, said Steven Perles, the Washington attorney who was at the forefront of claims.

Germany denied reparations to Prinz because, unlike most European Jewish survivors, he was not a "stateless refugee."

The alternative means of getting reparations was through bilateral agreements through which Germany would compensate Western nations for harm to their citizens.

However, the US, unlike many Western European states, never made compensation claims for its citizens, including American sol-

diers, who were held in concentration camps.

Until the Prinz case, under American law, a private individual was barred from suing Germany, a sovereign government, for compensation.

The American government, through its Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, determined who is eligible for compensation, because the reparations are made under a US-German pact.

In some instances, the reparations criteria are more liberal than those under which European-born Jews receive compensation from Germany.

The Americans, including Jewish and non-Jewish Nazi victims, will receive a lump-sum payment of slightly under \$10,000 for each month of incarceration in a concentration camp, plus a special additional payment for permanent disability, Perles said.

The American survivors would receive between \$15,000 to \$250,000 each; the compensation is expected to cost Germany \$15 million to \$25 million.

The Germans are going to take at least six months to pay. That's absurd," Perles said.

Friday. "They shouldn't have to make people wait. This delay works an extraordinary hardship on survivors." These survivors include POWs who were Jewish and Americans who were trapped in Europe during the war and interned because they were Jews or otherwise considered undesirable.

More than 1,360 claims were filed for the German compensation.

One survivor who was not deemed eligible by the US government was an American who, as a teenager in Hungary, helped three Jews escape.

This "righteous gentile," said Perles, was shot in the arm and permanently disabled.

However, he was ineligible because he was incarcerated in a Gestapo prison, not a concentration camp.

Prinz, now of Highland Park, New Jersey, was the son of a naturalized American citizen when he and his family were captured in Slovakia in 1942.

He lost his parents, three sisters and three brothers in the Holocaust.

He and 10 other Americans divided \$2.1m. from the 1995 German settlement.

Poles plan to block March of the Living

Ex-residents to push compensation claims for expropriated lands

WARSAW (AP) — Poles expelled in 1941 by the Nazis building the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp are planning a blockade of the annual March of the Living to press demands for compensation for lost property, their leader said yesterday.

Thousands of Jewish youths from around the world take part in the March of the Living each Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day in memory of more than one million Jews killed in the Auschwitz gas chambers.

Last year the prime ministers of Israel and Poland, Benjamin Netanyahu and Jerzy Buzek, participated in the three-kilometer march from Auschwitz concentration camp to Birkenau.

But Elzbieta Waluszek, 63, leader of the 300-strong local group of people who lost their homes and land when Auschwitz-Birkenau was built, said that they "have no other way out" but to block this year's march to get

attention for their calls for compensation.

"We are not antisemites and this is not against the Jews," Waluszek said in a telephone interview from her home in Brzezinka, 320 kilometers south of Warsaw, where the Birkenau camp was built.

"I know this is a drastic method, but since 1945 we've been writing, begging and no one wants to talk to us," she added.

According to Waluszek, the Nazis evicted some 5,000 people from the area, leveled 900 houses and took the land.

In 1958 some families got small "symbolic" compensation for lost land, but nothing was paid for the buildings or other losses, Waluszek said.

A government draft restitution law provides for compensation for what was lost within the camps' barbed-wire confines, but doesn't include land and property lost in a wide zone around them, Waluszek said.

Polish official to Germany for talks on slave labor

WARSAW (AP) — Invited by Germany, a senior Polish official will travel next week to Bonn for talks on a fund to compensate former Nazi slave laborers for damaged health and unpaid wages, a government spokesman said Friday.

Wieslaw Walendziak said Friday, by his counterpart Bodo Hombach, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's chief of staff.

No date for the talks was given. Poland had accused Germany of leaving it out of talks on compensation for slave laborers, saying while it was conferring intensively with officials in the US and Israel, it had failed to answer a December request by Walendziak for talks.

Leaving Poland out of the talks could lead to more antisemitism in Central Europe, Deputy Foreign Minister Janusz Stanczyk warned.

More than 2.5 million Poles were among the 7 million prisoners forced into labor by the Nazis during Hitler's Reich. Experts estimate as many as 500,000 slave laborers are still alive.

Germany agreed in October 1991 to pay former slave laborers from Poland \$300 each.

Yassin: PA is blocking Hamas attacks

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin has pledged that his organization will continue to mount attacks on Israel, but he complained that it was being thwarted by the current security cooperation between Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the US.

In an interview with the Arabic newsweekly *al-Wakeel* to be published in London tomorrow, Yassin lamented that three would-be suicide bombers were caught two months ago and remain in detention.

If the PA is truly upset by the policies of Prime Minister Netanyahu, he said, it should allow Hamas to operate unhindered, rather than place obstacles in its way.

The PA is now repressing its people when they stand up for their rights or seek to confront Israel. He accused the Palestinian police of "arresting, torturing and extracting information, which is then passed on to the Jews and Americans."

He said he was not interested

who wins the upcoming elections in Israel and denied that the spate of suicide bus bombings in February/March 1996 had been solely responsible for the defeat of former prime minister Shimon Peres.

"When we act, we are not concerned whether Netanyahu or Peres is in power," he says. "What concerns us is to defend ourselves and achieve the objectives of our homeland and people."

"We are not the ones to blame for the operations which occurred toward the end of the Israeli Labor Party's rule. The Israeli intelligence are the ones who killed brother Yuhayyeh Ayyash," [who made at least five bombs which blew up on buses].

"When they attack and kill someone on territory under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority (PA), they must shoulder the responsibility for that. The operations which occurred at the time were in retaliation."

"But we are not interested in who loses or wins in Israel because, in our opinion, they are two sides of the same coin — they differ on

appearances, but they are in full agreement on basic matters."

Yassin insisted that there will be neither peace nor stability until the Palestinians recover their land and holy places, but he is confident that "the end of Israel" would come within 30 years.

He rejected suggestions that Hamas mounts attacks against Israel only in retaliation for Israeli attacks on its militants, rather than constantly fighting the occupation.

"The trouble is that you [only] hear of the operations which succeeded," he said. "You don't hear about the operations which were thwarted and the arrest of their perpetrators."

"If this had been the case, you would have heard of a military operation or plans for one. Military action is ongoing in all its forms, and is impeded by objective circumstances." He insisted that although several commanders in the Izzadine Kassam Brigades have been assassinated that does not mean that its ranks have been infiltrated by enemy agents.

"Anyone who carries arms must know he will either kill or be killed."

The fact that the enemy is able to reach individuals among the leadership and kill them is something normal. But it is wrong to interpret this as meaning that our ranks have been penetrated. It must be seen as reflecting the expansion of the enemy's intelligence reach."

However, he blamed the PA for transmitting information to Israeli intelligence: "Whatever reaches the authority is passed on to Israel."

Yassin declared that despite sporadic reports of a dialogue between the PA and Hamas, there was no substantive exchange between him and PA chairman Yasser Arafat, or between Hamas and the PA in general.

Reports about a PA-Hamas dialogue, he said, are no more than PA propaganda aimed at appeasing Palestinian dissidents and putting pressure on Israel.

Yassin said he hoped the PA was seriously rethinking its position because the Palestinians must unite, rather than "rely on America to come up with solutions, or on Israel to do us favors."

"We must extract our rights," he said.

KOSOVO

Continued from Page 1

The report, which could not immediately be confirmed, said rebels were providing "strong resistance" in an area south of Decani, where a British verifier was shot and wounded the previous day in the first violence involving an injury to a monitor.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

"In this case, the continuing pursuit of justice takes precedent, and therefore, without any hesitation, I'll be there," Lieberman said.

Outside the chamber, senators continued to skirmish on the contentious issue of witnesses, with Democrats rejecting a Republican

The wailing of women in Racak, which was evacuated under fierce shelling and tank fire on Friday, could be heard yesterday as they learned of what happened.

Villagers said Serb police had separated men from their families and led them toward the local police station. They later turned and herded them up the hill, where they killed them, the residents said. Bodies lay where they appar-

ly were slain, along cow paths and in deep, hilly ravines.

Journalists heard villagers tell of a grisly massacre. An ethnic Albanian man who gave his name only as Raim said he was told Serb police had barged into his family compound and attacked and killed his father and two brothers.

"Yesterday early in the morning, police came with very heavy machine guns together with the

witnesses later in the trial, but he got a cool response from Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, a Democrat.

Lott suggested in a letter to Daschle that "a bipartisan group of senators could anticipate and help resolve in advance any complications" brought about by witness testimony.

"We should consider safeguards now so that testimony could begin as soon as fairness allowed," he wrote.

But Daschle said such a move would violate the Senate's previous agreement, which calls for the witness question to be settled later in the process.

"I agree that the prospect of witness testimony poses a number of troubling considerations that we would be forced to confront," Daschle wrote. "It is my hope that such arrangements will ultimately prove unnecessary."

IDF

Continued from Page 1

Alfiya said the problem is basically treated by searching every line of a program; whenever a date appears, it is changed to four digits to make sure it can read the date 2000.

The army designated 21 dates which they suspected would be problematic. Two — December 31, 1998 and January 1, 1999 — have already passed without mishap. There was fear that the millennium bug would strike then, but there were no problems in the IDF.

"All this says is that we passed the first test OK, but that doesn't

mean anything regarding the future," Alfiya says.

Other dates are September 9, (9.9.99), since many programs define that combination of digits as infinity. And a date in August is problematic since all global positioning systems (GPS) — a satellite guidance system — are programmed to die.

"For some reason in the early 1980s when they made the GPS they programmed it to operate for 1,024 weeks. Well time's up in August. And we are working on the assumption that the GPS used in the IDF could fail. That's our approach," he says.

"The IDF has become extremely dependent on the GPS, which

gives a user his precise location. The system is used for everything from sighting artillery and navigating on the ground and in the air. Most precision-guided weapons use GPS for accuracy."

Another problematic date is February 29, 2000. Alfiya said that in early tests when this date was entered into the computer the computer rejected it, saying the day doesn't exist.

The army has issued regulations to manually change the dates on computers when December 31, 1999 is over.

The original plan was for the program to be done by December 31, 1998 so that the IDF had a year of leeway to deal with prob-

lems that may have been overlooked. Alfiya said that in general, the IDF is ready.

"I promise we are doing our utmost to be 100 percent ready. The trend is to minimize the problem. I can only guarantee... 100% effort, not 100% success," he said.

The army is expected to be on high alert on the problematic days.

According to Alfiya, Israel is fifth in the world in its investment to eliminate the 2000 bug. He said that everything in the IDF is being done "in-house" and that solutions arrived at by other nations were not accepted here.

"We don't rely on anyone else," Alfiya said.

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WORLD

in brief

Britons held in Yemen retract confessions

ADEN (Reuters) — The lawyer for five Britons and a sixth man using a French passport who are accused in Yemen of planning an Islamic guerrilla campaign said yesterday they had retracted their confessions. "The defendants said they had withdrawn confessions. Some spoke of confessions they made under torture," lawyer Badr Basumaid said.

He said the confessions were withdrawn on Friday in front of the prosecutor-general. Aden's security chief, Brig. Mohammed Saleh Turaik, said on Friday the men had confessed after being charged with possessing illegal weapons and intending to commit murder.

Afghan opposition reports taking township

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) — Afghanistan's opposition alliance said yesterday it had taken a strategic township in the central province of Bamian as it accused the ruling Taliban militia of bombing residential areas in the northeast.

The opposition forces took Yakaulang township in the morning after a few hours of fighting, pouring into it from surrounding hills, an opposition spokesman, Dr. Abdullah, told Reuters by telephone from northeast Afghanistan. There was no independent confirmation from Abdullah's report, which said repeated Taliban attacks to recapture Yakaulang failed, while militia air raids killed 11 civilians in the area.

US, N. Korea slap blackout on nuclear talks

GENEVA (Reuters) — The US and North Korean negotiators were reported to be meeting yesterday in a fresh effort to resolve a row over construction of what could be a new nuclear site in the secretive communist state. But although diplomatic sources said the talks were under way, officials of both sides declined to give any details or even say where they were taking place.

"There are no plans for any media events, and no logistical information will be given," said a US spokesman. A North Korean diplomat, contacted by telephone, declined to discuss the negotiations.

Malaysia's Anwar loses bail bid again

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — A Malaysian court yesterday rejected a request by sacked finance minister Anwar Ibrahim, detained since September on sex and corruption charges, to be released on bail. The Court of Appeal in the capital dismissed Anwar's appeal against a lower court decision denying him bail. "I'm very sad," Anwar's wife Wan Azizah Wan Ismail told reporters after he was whisked away to spend his first Id al-Fitr festival in prison. The holiday marks the conclusion of the Ramadan fasting month, which ends tomorrow.

Former Vietnam defense minister dies

HANOI (Reuters) — Former Vietnam defense minister and top revolutionary Doan Khue has died, official media reported yesterday. The 75-year-old, four-star general was suffering liver cancer and had been confined to Hanoi's Military 108 Hospital for a number of months, sources have said.

Khue began revolutionary activities at the age of 26 in 1939 and was captured and imprisoned by colonial French forces a year later. He joined the People's Army in 1945 and rose to attain a seat on the party politburo in December 1986.

But party sources have said he suffered political setbacks after a 1997 trip to France, when he boasted to French President Jacques Chirac that the next time they met it would be as equals.

Brazil seeks IMF, US backing after allowing currency to float

By MICHAEL CHRISTIE

BRASILIA (Reuters) — Brazil hoped to gain support from the US and the International Monetary Fund yesterday after Latin America's powerhouse economy threw its currency, the real, to the mercy of the markets.

Finance Minister Pedro Malan and Central Bank President Francisco Lopes flew into Washington Friday for weekend talks with US Treasury officials and IMF chief Michel Camdessus.

German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine, currently chairman of the European Union finance ministers, said in Frankfurt the EU would support the crisis-hit country.

"I will speak with Brazilian Finance Minister Malan by telephone this afternoon and offer him support in the name of the European Union," Lafontaine told reporters.

The Brazilian mission to Washington followed its decision on Friday to stop defending the cherished currency and float it on world markets to avert a Russia-style financial collapse, which some feared would have reignited world economic turmoil.

The real closed off 8 percent from Thursday at 1.43 to the dollar. For the week, it fell 15%.

It was a painful loss in spending power for 160 million Brazilians, but the decision to abandon the backbone of Brazil's five-year anti-inflation plan did not, at least for now, amount to the economic meltdown some had dreaded.

Dollar outflows, which reached nearly \$2 billion on Thursday, slowed to \$300 million on Friday, traders said. Shares in Sao Paulo soared more than 30% on relief that Brazil had given up its potentially crippling fight against the market.

US stocks and the dollar, which dipped this week on fears a Brazil crisis could hurt US exports, posted strong gains Friday.

But Brazilian newspapers warned the government not to be fooled into underestimating the dangers ahead by the euphoric reaction of world markets. Commentators said inflation, recession, unemployment and deepening poverty now loomed.

"The real economy will pay a gigantic price," warned influential



Brazilian Finance Minister Pedro Malan speaks with reporters upon arriving in Washington on Friday. (Reuters)

economic columnist Miriam Leitao in *O Globo* daily.

"The worst error the government could make now is to minimize the dangers ahead and believe the euphoria of the markets was proof that the worst had passed."

Antonio Ermirio de Moraes, vice president of one of Brazil's biggest companies, Votorantim, warned the harrowing inflation that haunted Brazil through the 1980s could return with a floating exchange rate.

"Our foreign exchange policy needs controlled banks in order to maintain order in the house. We're not disciplined, we're Latinos," he told the *Folha de Sao Paulo* newspaper.

The Central Bank was due to set new foreign exchange rules tomorrow and could decide to return to a new, broader band of trading limits for the real or let it continue to float.

The next step is up to Malan and

Lopes, who will be looking for support for Brazil's economic strategy and advice from the IMF and the US government on the new foreign exchange rules.

In September, Brazil narrowly avoided a devaluation after the Russian economic collapse when the IMF and other lenders rushed up a \$41.5 billion bailout package. Terms of the deal did not contemplate a free float of the real.

Top industrial nations said the real's sharp devaluation left Brazil with no choice but to finally tackle the overspending that whittled away at investor confidence and led to severe capital flight.

US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said more aid for Brazil was not the answer.

Economists said they expected the talks with the IMF and the US Treasury to be more an act of atonement for having sprung the changes

on them with little advance notice.

The IMF said it had been consulted about Brazil's decision to stop defending its currency through dollar sales. But economists said an initial controlled devaluation on Wednesday of 8% was a bit of a surprise.

"What they are hoping to do is to explain to the IMF and the Treasury what they did this week and basically try and maintain the disbursement (of the rescue package) or even speed them up," said Carl Ross, managing director of Latin American sovereign research for Bear Stearns.

"It's a little hard for me to imagine they will get a very warm reception," Brazil's *O Estado de Sao Paulo* newspaper noted cold reality would probably win the international backers to Brazil's side.

"The Brazilian plea [for support] could be accepted by the IMF, tak-

ing into account the importance of Brazil in the world economy and that helping Brazil would avoid a crisis which could have very serious international consequences," it wrote.

Brazilians used to live in a surreal economic environment where inflation topped 2,000% a year. The economic stability program known as the Real Plan, drawn up in 1994, while Cardoso was finance minister, put a stop to that.

Anchored on a strong currency and high interest rates, the Real Plan brought inflation down to zero last year, restoring the pride of Latin America's industrial powerhouse.

Commentators said Brazil would now have to go back to the drawing board and work out a new economic strategy based on a floating exchange rate, but of fiscal discipline.

EU, Asia ministers agree to work for exchange rate stability

By PAUL AMES

FRANKFURT (AP) — Finance ministers from leading European and Asian economies yesterday agreed on tighter international cooperation to stabilize exchange rates and avoid the sort of market chaos that is rocking Brazil.

The 25 ministers wrapped up two days of talks with calls for closer surveillance of financial markets and greater coordination to prevent exchange-rate jolts and sudden flights of capital from emerging markets.

"Everyone agrees we need to take steps to avoid swings in exchange rates... it's what we call flexible stability," said German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine, who chaired the meeting.

Lafontaine said the crisis in Brazil, and earlier turmoil in Asian and Russian markets, showed "leaving everything wide open gives rise to difficulties... It's our duty to get to grips with this," Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi

Miyazawa said more concrete proposals would need to be worked out later in talks involving the US. Ministers shied away from controversial proposals from Germany and Japan for using coordinated buying and selling by central banks to limit exchange-rate shocks by keeping currencies within fixed bands or target values.

Italian Treasury Minister Carlo Ciampi said it is too early to talk about such plans and Lafontaine acknowledged target rates for leading world leading currencies could only come when the US, European, and Japanese economies were on the same track.

"The first step is for economies to converge. Economic policy decisions need to be coordinated," Lafontaine told a news conference.

At the Europe-Asia meeting, Lafontaine warned there was a "need to scale down growth expectations world-wide" following the turbulence in Latin America, Asia, and Russia. But European and Asian officials sought to downplay

the potential impact of Brazil's woes on their markets.

Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, was prevented from attending by snow in Washington, but in a written statement he predicted Asia's recovery will be under way by the end of 1999.

EU Finance Commissioner Yves Thibault de Mitty said "growth in Europe will be more robust than in other parts of the world."

Miyazawa floated the idea of anchoring Asian currencies to a basket comprising the Japanese yen, dollar and the euro, rather than leaving them pegged to the dollar.

He said the launch of the euro was a good opportunity to look afresh at the world financial system.

Elaborating on the "flexible stability" concept put forward by Lafontaine, officials said it would involve closer monitoring of capital movements and greater coordinated intervention by central banks.

Impeachment team talks amid yawns

By JOANNE KENEN

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — They used big blue posters with blow-up quotes, video clips of grand jury testimony, and long dry citations from federal criminal codes. But mostly the House prosecutors in President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial just talked.

They talked about presidential secretary Betty Currie stashing Monica Lewinsky's gifts from the president under her bed in a sealed box on which the love-struck former intern had written "please do not throw away."

They talked about Clinton's contorted definitions of sex, and his infamous quibbling over the meaning of the word "is." They talked about Lewinsky's attempts to find a job.

They even talked about how much they were repeating themselves as they went over and over the ground that they have gone over and over in the year-long probe into Clinton's actions over the Lewinsky affair.

"Now, I'm not going back over, putting that up on the screen again, but I do want to put up here for you what you have in front of you," said Florida Republican Bill McCollum, who promised several times in his one-hour statement

that he would be brief.

Under the rules of the trial that began with the House prosecutors' arguments, his audience of senators were required not to talk at all.

"Facts and the law do bear repeating — not endless, not pointless, but appropriate repetition," said Bob Barr of Georgia, going on to explain in more detail the value of "appropriate repetition." They didn't talk very much about sex. They have avoided the salacious details of independent counsel Kenneth Starr's report and have also been less graphic than they were in the heatedly partisan House Judiciary Committee deliberations.

Ears did perk up when Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas introduced the phrase "oral sex" on the floor of the US Senate although he, like other speakers, refrained from any further discussion.

McCollum mentioned "breasts" a few times and seemed uncomfortable uttering the word "genitalia." James Rogan of California referred to "enumerated body parts," but didn't elaborate.

Recognizing that tedium could have a price, the House managers decided not to use the full 24 hours allotted to them by the Senate. As they went over well-worn legal ground, some of the speakers tried

to liven things up with their own pet images or metaphors.

Opening the case with comments that actually were brief, Judiciary Committee chairman Henry Hyde of Illinois discussed the sanctity of an oath.

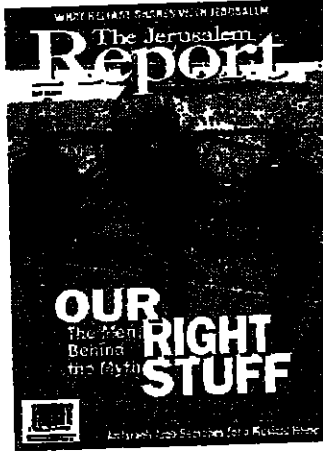
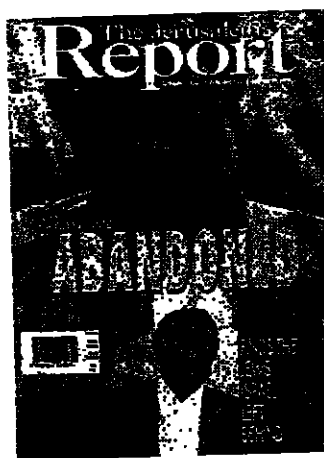
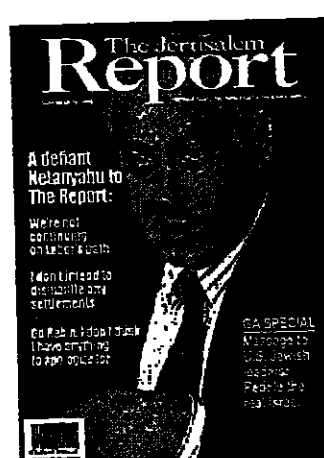
He evoked Sir Thomas More, the 16th century English saint and statesman locked in the Tower of London who "went to his death rather than take an oath in vain." More is best known to many in the 20th century from the movie *Man for All Seasons*.

The next speaker, George Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, has a flat Midwestern tone and he went on for an hour in a 13-page speech that ranged all over the place but repeatedly told the Senators their duty. Senators, more than during any other single presentation over the past days, were visibly trying to fight off sleep.

Sensenbrenner didn't make too many metaphorical reaches. He stuck to referring to the "cancer" in the presidency, a phrase that harks back to the Watergate era. He likened senators to scientists.

"A scientist in search of the basic nature of a substance begins by boiling away what is not of the essence. Similarly the Senate will sift through the layers of debris that shroud the truth," he said.

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Iran hardliners stop pro-Khatami sermon

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Stone-throwing Iranian hard-line militants disrupted a sermon by a senior moderate cleric backing President Mohammad Khatami, amid a bitter row over a spate of killings of dissidents, newspapers reported yesterday.

The daily *Salam* said some 100 Islamic militants cut speaker wires and threw sticks, stones, and metal rods at a podium where Ayatollah Jafar Abdi was about to deliver his sermon at Friday prayers in the central city of Isfahan.

"When an iron rod was thrown at Ayatollah Taheri, his bodyguard fired blank rounds in the air, but the agitators kept throwing stones and shoes. Ayatollah Taheri left the podium," *Salam* said.

The militants, chanting slogans backing the conservative-run

Intelligence Ministry, which has been at the center of the row after admitting that some of its agents were involved in the murders, and calling for Taheri's resignation, it said.

Taheri had earlier called for a purge of the ministry, saying "years of mismanagement" had paved the way for the murder spree in which two outspoken dissidents and at least two liberal writers died.

A clerical body in charge of Friday prayers yesterday expressed "disgust" at the disruption, saying in a statement that the militants had "violated the sanctity of the Friday prayers and its leader," state television reported.

It was a rare condemnation by a top body of the militants, who are widely believed to be backed by powerful conservatives.

Taheri's office earlier issued a statement accusing police and security forces of standing by during Friday's disturbance and "sometimes cooperating with the agitators," *Salam* said.

Moderates backing Khatami, who has spearheaded probes into the murders, have accused hardliners of involvement in the killings in an effort to destabilize Khatami's government. But conservatives have denied the charges, with some hardliners accusing backers of Khatami for the killings.

Taheri, the only big-city Friday prayer leader who openly backs Khatami's liberal reforms, has also provoked the wrath of hardliners by speaking out against their attacks on Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, Iran's most prominent dissident cleric.

Eight years since Desert Storm

Iraq marks anniversary

By EDMUND BLAIR

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Banner-waving Iraqis chanting support for President Saddam Hussein marched in Baghdad yesterday, as newspapers said Iraq is ready to consider any sincere effort to end eight years of UN-imposed sanctions.

Hundreds of demonstrators, some burning the US flag, marked the eighth anniversary of the start of air strikes against Iraq by US-led forces to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

"With our spirit and our blood we defend you, Saddam Hussein," they chanted.

"We will follow this path until death, against the aggression of America and Britain who have imposed the embargo upon us," said Sultan Aniya, a middle-aged demonstrator.

One of the two demonstrations on a rainy Baghdad day was outside offices of the ruling Baath Party, overlooked by Latif Nassayef Jassim, a senior party official.

Asked about the US proposal this week to

remove limits imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait on Iraq's oil sales to buy food and medicine, Jassim told reporters: "The American initiative is wicked and vicious, and rejected." Iraq has dismissed a similar suggestion from Saudi Arabia, but has yet to respond to a French initiative that suggested a more liberalized trade policy for civilian goods, while maintaining controls on military equipment.

Health Minister Umeed Madhat Mubarak said almost 1.9 million Iraqis, about a quarter of them under the age of five, had died as a result of the Gulf War and eight years of sanctions, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

Independent assessments of deaths among Iraq's 22 million population caused by sanctions were not available.

Iraqi newspapers toned down some of their more fiery rhetoric yesterday, saying Iraq is ready for any sincere effort to end sanctions, but stuck to stiff Iraqi demands.

"Iraq opens its arms to its brothers as long as they have sound and sincere intentions," the

influential *Babel* newspaper said in a front-page editorial.

"We will not accept less than lifting the illegal embargo and compensation for all the losses and damage caused by aggressive states and those who participate with them," the newspaper, owned by the president's eldest son Uday, said.

The official *Al-Qadisiya* newspaper said Iraq is ready to deal positively with "any position or any initiative whatever its source... provided it is sound, responsible and just."

Qadisiya restated Saddam's insistence on Thursday that Iraq would only accept a complete lifting of the embargo, imposed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and compensation.

Iraq is now allowed to sell \$5.25 billion of oil every six months to buy essential supplies under a program to ease the sanctions. But low oil prices and a dilapidated oil industry means it can sell only about \$3 billion in that period.

In case of Iraq attack

US agrees to send Patriots to Turkey

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States has agreed in principle to send a battery of Patriot missiles to Turkey in case of an escalation of the conflict with Iraq, the State Department said on Friday. A battery contains eight missile launchers.

Spokesman James Rubin told reporters the agreement is for "the duration of the current crisis," but stressed that it may take some time before a deployment of Patriots could occur.

Rubin declined to provide further information, referring reporters to the Pentagon.

A Pentagon spokesman told Reuters that no deployment order had been signed for the weapons, "so nothing is moving yet." He said the United States would first send a team to Turkey to "assess arrangements" for the missiles, which would be deployed in the area of Incirlik Air Base.

The official refused to provide any more details and said he does not know if the deployment would be temporary or permanent.

At the news briefing, Rubin said: "We see no immediate threat to Turkey right now, but obviously there are a lot of hostile statements from Baghdad and we think it's prudent to consider these kind of precautionary measures."

The Pentagon official also said: "The proposed deployment is not being taken in response to a specific threat."

NATO member Turkey asked the United States to send it Patriot missiles in case of an escalation of conflict in neighboring Iraq. US and British planes enforcing the northern no-fly zone are based in Incirlik, in southern Turkey.

The US willingness to accommodate Turkey on the Patriots comes after Turkey's new prime minister, Bulent Ecevit, Tuesday criticized the US for having no clear policy aims in its confrontation with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

However, in an interview with NTV television channel in Ankara, he said he foresees no change in the status of a joint US-Turkish air base used to patrol the no-fly zone over the neighboring Kurdish-held enclave of northern Iraq.

US jets based at Incirlik attacked Iraqi air defense sites in the enclave on Monday and Tuesday after being targeted by missiles, US officials said.

Turkey's request follows eight confrontations in the Western-enforced no-fly zones since the end of Operation Desert Fox last month, when the United States and Britain launched four days of air raids against Iraq.



North America rocked by snowstorms
A Toronto commuter shields his face from the cold while waiting for a bus. Snowstorms hit eastern Canada and the United States on Thursday, dumping a third of a meter of snow on some areas south of Boston, locking up traffic and forcing dozens of drivers to abandon their vehicles. By Friday, the snow had changed to freezing rain. (AP)

Antichrist a male Jew, says US Christian leader

By SONJA BARISIC

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia (AP) - In a speech about the concern people have over the new millennium, a top Christian leader said the Antichrist is probably alive today and is a male Jew.

The Rev. Jerry Falwell also told about 1,500 people at a conference in Kingsport, Tennessee, on Thursday that he believes the second coming of Jesus probably will be within 10 years.

"Who will the Antichrist be? I don't know. Nobody else knows," said Falwell, whose Sunday morning services at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg are carried by television stations nationwide.

"Is he alive and here today? Probably. Because when he appears during the Tribulation period, he will be a full-grown counterfeit of Christ. Of course, he'll be Jewish. Of course he'll pretend to be Christ. And if, in fact, the Lord is coming soon, and he'll be an adult at the presentation of himself, he must be alive somewhere today."

According to the Bible, the Antichrist will spread universal evil before the end of the world, but will be conquered at the second coming of Christ.

Falwell said Friday in Williamsburg that he did not intend for his statement to be anti-Jewish. He said he meant only that the Antichrist must be Jewish because Jesus Christ was a Jew.

"If he's going to be the counterfeit of Christ, he has to be Jewish," Falwell said. "The only thing we know is he must be male and Jewish." Rabbi James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee in New York said the comment surprised him, because he knows Falwell is a strong supporter of Israel and is not anti-Jewish.

"This is part of what I call millennial madness," Rudin said. "To single out any one man, and particularly to identify him as Jewish, plays into some latent and historical antisemitism from the past."

"This is very, very radioactive material. I think Christian leaders have to exercise great care, because this can produce negative responses among people who are not educated in the New Testament," he said.

Turkish troops kill four Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (Reuters) - Turkish troops killed four Kurdish rebels in clashes Friday night following a guerrilla rocket attack on an oil refinery in the southeast, security officials said yesterday.

Two Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighters were killed in a military operation launched after the attack on the refinery in the province of Batman, the officials told Reuters.

Two guards were killed and three wounded late on Friday when one of the rockets fired by the rebels hit a sentry post. One of the guards died of his wounds during the night.

"The operations in the area are continuing to track down the terrorists," an official said.

In a separate operation, two PKK guerrillas were killed in fighting near the town of Nusaybin close to the border with Syria.

There were no reports of army casualties in the clash. More than 20,000 people have been killed in the 14-year-old conflict between the security forces and the PKK, fighting for self-rule in mainly Kurdish southeastern Turkey.

The PKK's leader Abdullah Ocalan is at the center of a dispute between Turkey and Italy. Rome has refused to extradite the guerrilla chief, whom it detained in November, because Turkey has the death penalty.

Hall wants divorce from Mick Jagger

LONDON (AP) - Mick Jagger once lamented that he "can't get no satisfaction," but Jerry Hall's decision Friday to file divorce papers against him apparently centered on the fact that the Rolling Stones star has been getting way too much.

In what could be the most expensive divorce in British history, Hall's lawyers announced Friday that she has initiated proceedings to end their tumultuous eight-year marriage. The Texas-born model has put up with years of Jagger's well publicized infidelities, but apparently considered the latest reports that he had impregnated a Brazilian model too much to bear.

The law firm Mishcon de Reya said it had filed divorce papers on her behalf. "There is no further comment at this stage," said Mishcon de Reya, which also represented Princess Diana in her divorce from Prince Charles.

The firm won a \$28 million judgment for Diana in 1996, but newspaper speculation said Hall, 42, would seek at least \$49.5 million.

"Princess Diana's divorce was the most expensive recorded divorce in Britain," divorce lawyer Mark Stephens of London-based Stephens Innocent said Friday. He said some private settlements have probably exceeded that figure, but were likely not above the amount Hall is said to be seeking.

Hall and Jagger have lived together since the late 1970s and married in 1990. They have four children - Elizabeth, 14, James, 13, Georgia May, 6, and 1-year-old Gabriel.

Hall has previously threatened to divorce Jagger, 55, over a number of well publicized indiscretions - the latest involving a Brazilian model, Luciana Gimenez Morad, who claims she is pregnant with his child.

The couple first separated in 1992 after the Rolling Stones frontman was linked to Italian model Carla Bruni. More trouble brewed two years ago after Jagger was linked to a string of women, including actress Uma Thurman and model Nicole Kruk.

Sierra Leone rebels' cease-fire offer met with silence

By ALLIEU BRAHMAN KAMARA

FREETOWN (Reuters) - Sierra Leone rebels said yesterday they would respect a temporary cease-fire from tomorrow but there was no sign pro-government forces were ready to reciprocate.

As fighting went on east of Freetown, the UN special representative for Sierra Leone flew to the devastated city for more talks with President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah and commanders of ECOMOG, the Nigerian-led regional force battling the rebels.

"We are going ahead with our temporary cease-fire at 1800 GMT on Monday. A week from Monday is as far as our commitment goes," Omie Golley, spokesman for the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF), said in Abidjan.

He said the RUF wanted UN observers on the ground to monitor and verify the seven-day cease-fire. Most of the UN military observers remain in neighboring Guinea, where they were evacuated with other UN staff after rebels seized parts of Freetown on January 6.

UN envoy Francis Okelo flew from Guinea for talks with Kabbah and ECOMOG to try to revive international mediation. Both the embattled president and Nigeria on Friday strongly criticized West African mediators, led by Togo and Ivory Coast, virtually accusing them of meddling.

"Those who do not even have a soldier in Sierra Leone are pretending to be peacemakers," Okelo said.

I would ask them to stop it. We cannot be taken for a ride," Nigerian Foreign Minister Ignatius Oluisehinwa said at a ceremony for fallen Nigerian soldiers.

UN sources said Okelo also planned early talks with Nigeria and Ghana. With Guinea, Ghana is the other country with troops in ECOMOG whose 15,000 men are mainly from Nigeria.

Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema, current chairman of the regional community ECOWAS, warned on Friday that unless all 16 member states worked together the conflict "risks spreading beyond Sierra Leone and engulfing the entire sub-region."

ECOMOG troops in Sierra Leone continued to push the rebels eastwards after recapturing the center of Freetown.

But a Reuters correspondent in Freetown said residents fleeing the eastern parts of the city reported pockets of rebels were still there.

Pro-government radio in Freetown said ECOMOG had relaxed the curfew in the west of the city because rebels had been cleared from there.

People in the Westend were free to leave their houses for several hours, but were told not to gather in groups.

Anyone on the streets outside these hours would be treated as a rebel, the radio said.

The 24-hour curfew remained in force in all eastern parts of the city.

ECOMOG officers told Reuters there was heavy fighting with rebels at Jui, some 16

km. east of Freetown where Nigeria's 2nd Brigade has its barracks.

Golley said the one-week cease-fire would be unilateral if necessary and the release of their detained leader Foday Sankoh was not a pre-condition although it remained a demand.

He said the cease-fire would be reviewed on Monday, January 25, and would be curtailed if the rebels were attacked by ECOMOG on the ground or from the air.

Sankoh has been in custody in Nigeria and Sierra Leone for the past two years and is now believed to be held in Freetown.

Kabbah on Friday ruled out Sankoh's early release or transfer abroad.

Kabbah told Reuters Television that Sierra Leone's parliament would have to endorse any future plan to release RUF founder and leader Sankoh.

Aid agencies with local or expatriate staff in Sierra Leone were meeting in Abidjan on Saturday after ECOMOG confiscated their radio and other communications equipment.

One senior aid worker said ECOMOG wrongly suspected them of passing on information to the rebels.

There was no confirmation that a British navy frigate had yet arrived at Freetown. Britain, the former colonial power, seemed ready to provide more active support against the rebels, although Foreign Ministry sources in London said 180 troops on board the HMS Norfolk would not get directly involved in fighting.

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Another Serb massacre

It is now too much of a ghastly coincidence that death by massacre seems to follow in the footsteps of Serb security forces. The latest atrocity in Kosovo, the murders of more than 40 people shot in the back of the head and mutilated, is an atrocity too far. It is high time the international troops stationed in the fragmented states of the former Yugoslavia stopped pussy-footing around and start putting behind bars some of the war criminals who are stalking this region with impunity.

The Kosovo International Verification Mission, yet another seemingly useless international body, has been able to do no more than any junior foreign reporter would - confirm that the massacre had occurred and verify the body count. The ability of the Serbs, the paramilitary police in this case, to continue murdering civilians with impunity under the noses of international observers recalls the disgraceful failure of the United Nations to prevent the appalling Serb massacre after the fall of Srebrenica in Bosnia.

Catching the war criminals and murderers roaming the statelets and provinces of former Yugoslavia should now be made a top international priority, perhaps even more important than finalizing fragmentary peace treaties in the troubled region. Only when Serb military commanders and police chiefs and their political masters become aware that they can be swiftly spirited off to The Hague and locked up for abusing the rules of war might they pause to

think before putting a gun to the back of one more unarmed civilian's neck.

This is the bloodiest and most evil killing spree since the so-called cease-fire was established last October under threat of NATO military intervention. Under the agreement, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic agreed to withdraw forces from Kosovo, end his attacks on ethnic Albanians there, and allow up to 2,000 international monitors to verify that he was keeping his word. Milosevic managed to hold off the NATO air strikes, but it has been clear from the start he had no intention of ceasing his war on the defiant ethnic Albanians.

Many of the bodies found at Racak were elderly men; the rest appeared to be civilians. It is now a well known practice of ruthless Serb units to kill anyone at all when they cannot get at the armed enemy. It is about time the international community made it a practice to summon NATO air strikes against military units carrying out such massacres. It took the shelling of the Sarajevo market to bring NATO warplanes into action against the Bosnian Serbs, just as it took the Srebrenica massacre to give impetus to the Dayton peace accords.

A cynic might ask how many massacres in Kosovo will it take before Milosevic and his war-criminal subordinates are brought to book. So far, the international effort in this part of the world remains no more than the politics of the latest atrocity.

Never too late

Germany's agreement to pay reparations to American citizens held in Nazi concentration camps is to be welcomed - even if it is one more piece of scandalously delayed justice that has come too late for the vast majority of the victims who needed it.

US citizens have been excluded from previous reparation payments, but under a new agreement with Washington, Germany agreed to come up with a sum for American nationals subjected to Nazi persecution. The number of beneficiaries remaining alive is small - about 230 in all - and they will receive from \$10,000 to more than \$200,000, depending on the amount of time they spent in camps and the damage they suffered. However, reparation agreements continue to exclude large numbers of people persecuted by Nazis but not put in death camps.

A major unresolved Holocaust reparation issue is that of the Nazis' slave laborers. Encouraged by last year's \$1.25 billion settlement with Swiss banks, hundreds of them are now turning their legal attention to the German companies that profited from the work of Hitler's slaves. At least 15 lawsuits have been filed so far, many against companies that are still household names, such as Volkswagen, Siemens, Daimler-Benz, and Ford's German facilities. The Nazis forced nearly eight million people, mainly Jews, but also captured Poles,

Russians and others into hard labor lasting 18 hours a day, seven days a week, that killed most of them. Some 700,000 may still be alive.

Companies have mostly referred compensation claims to the German government, though the now dismantled I.G. Farben did pay compensation in the 1950s, and Siemens and Daimler-Benz have made indirect payments of millions of dollars to Jewish charities. Companies make the obvious remark that they are different companies today than they were in Nazi days. However, some of their forerunner managements in the 1950s did set them up for today's legal assaults by insisting they were not responsible for the policies the Nazi overlords forced on them.

Some Jewish leaders have expressed fears that a new breed of hyperactive lawyers pursuing compensation claims may portray the Holocaust as a property issue. This is not so, of course - compensation is not just about money, it is about the symbolic recognition of a moral debt, and a commitment to teach new generations. Nobody wants to paint respectable modern German companies with a Nazi tar brush. Six million people were murdered because they were Jews, and for them or their relatives, there is no compensation on earth. But as a secondary crime, they were also robbed. That is an issue we can and should do something about. Wherever it is still possible, it is still necessary.

Lurie's NewsCartoon



"We should feel sorry for them... lucky we're so far away."

Reeducate our politicians!

DAVID WEINBERG

Our prime ministerial candidates seem to have it all wrong as they head out on the stump. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak shopped for votes in the south; Moshe Arens went to Hebron; Dan Meridor to Dimona; and Sara to Kiryat Shmona.

Wrong direction, guys! Here are some suggested, educationally corrective, campaign stops, for each one of our would-be leaders: • Barak back to Beit El. To soften his standard "good guys-bad guys" speech a bit, Ehud Barak could benefit from another visit to one of those "bad guy" settlements, like Beit El, which he visited last May.

Instead of "parasites," he would find real Zionists and idealists, people who still believe in old-style values of settling the Land of Israel through sacrifice. He would meet people with businesses, including many hi-tech entrepreneurs, like "leeches."

He would discover highly motivated young people committed to army service in the best units - just like it used to be in the circles in which Barak himself grew up.

While visiting those places he plans to de-prioritize, or "dry up" as Yitzhak Rabin bluntly used to say, Barak could make yet another historic apology on behalf of the Labor Party - an apology to all religious people in this country, whom the Labor intelligentsia and party hierarchy blamed for the assassination of prime minister Rabin.

Failure to back away from these hyperbolic, demonizing charges - which still resonate in my ears - makes a mockery of Barak's call for unity under a "One Israel" banner.

• Shahak to the makor: Let Shahak wet his feet a bit at lower levels of governance, before leaping to the big leagues. Let him try

a term as chairman of the Union of Local Authorities, for example, and deal with real people and their problems.

Better yet, I think Amnon should tag along with a new immigrant or local grocer as he makes his way through the line-ups and Byzantine labyrinths at the Interior Ministry or the income tax offices.

This would be a novel, useful experience for the former chief of

Perhaps Barak should go to Beit El; Lieberman to Harvard; and Meridor to the Border Police

General Staff. I bet he has never waited in line before, anywhere, or been turned away brusquely by an uncaring clerk too busy with his coffee.

• Netanyahu to Slobodkin: The messianic movement, which revolutionized yeshiva studies a century ago with an emphasis on ethics, particularly humility, has fallen into disfavor in the face of modern hubris and overconfidence. Take Bibi, for example. His biggest problem is an inability to get along with anyone, even his ideological comrades-in-arms. Ego and an over-reaching self-appreciation are the root causes.

So I would send Netanyahu for a introspective examination at the Center for Meditation and Healing in Berkeley; or a month at the mussar-centered Slobodkin yeshiva. Or perhaps he would prefer a

weekend of spiritual searching and self-abnegation at a Shlomo Carlebach shabbaton. At any of these places, Bibi would learn that truth is always the best policy.

• Meridor to the Border Police: At present, Dan would make a good prime minister - of a civilized, well-mannered country like Canada or Norway. But over here, there are several brutal realities that need facing, and our not-so-western neighbors respect toughness, not enlightenment.

So for a period of apprenticeship, I would put Meridor in charge of the Border Police in the Jerusalem area or a West Bank undercover unit and see how well he makes out in keeping the peace. Let him develop some calluses. Riot-control experience would be good seasoning for a leader who will have to mercilessly put down the next, inevitable intifada.

• Begin to Ovadia Yosef: There's mutual benefit to be had by pairing Benny Begin with Aryeh Deri and his boss, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. The ramrod straight and unyielding Begin would learn about ideological flexibility and the art of endless political twisting - in which Shas specializes.

These are skills he'll need if he wants to lead a political movement in the real world of compromises.

Conversely, some of Begin's integrity and solidity might rub off on Deri.

• Lieberman to Harvard: At the John F. Kennedy School of Government, perhaps they can teach Avigdor Lieberman something about democracy. Any help they could provide would be gratefully appreciated.

Lieberman has a long way to go in understanding the rule of law, norms of democratic discourse and the limits of power. Need I say more?

Champion of truth?

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

At the Senate "trial" of President Clinton, the public sees Chief Justice William Rehnquist presiding over the proceedings. He will make rulings about perjury, obstruction of justice and other points of law. Although these rulings are subject to reversal by a majority of the Senate, it is likely that senators will defer to the expertise of the chief justice - who sits before them as the embodiment of the law, draped in a black robe with gold stripes.

Several senators will be gritting their teeth, however, because they believe that Chief Justice William Rehnquist may have committed perjury before them when he testified at his own confirmation hearing for chief justice of the United States in 1986.

He swore that a smoking-gun memorandum he wrote while he was a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson reflected the views of the late justice rather than his own. This distinction was important, since the segregationist views expressed in the damning memorandum might well have disqualified Rehnquist from promotion to chief justice.

The Rehnquist memorandum used the first person in declaring, "I think Plessy versus Ferguson was right and should be reaffirmed," but Rehnquist claimed that "I" really meant "he." The memo was written in 1952, when Rehnquist was a clerk to Justice Robert Jackson and the Supreme Court was beginning to evaluate Brown v. Board of Education.

Plessy stood for the proposition that racial segregation in schools was constitutionally acceptable, and, more broadly, that a state-supported segregated way of life was legally permissible. Rehnquist claimed that he had written the memo at Jackson's request, and that it represented Jackson's views.

This claim was countered by

Elsie Douglas, Jackson's longtime secretary, who called Rehnquist's attribution of the views to Jackson, "a smear of a great man. Jackson did not ask law clerks to express his views. He expressed his own, and they expressed theirs." During the confirmation hearings, moreover, several senators quoted from numerous other memos prepared for Jackson wherein Rehnquist expressed what were clearly his own viewpoints and similar to the statements at issue in the Plessy memo.

For example, in a memo about the Rosenberg case, Rehnquist wrote, "In my opinion, if they are going to have a death sentence for any crime, the acts of these (petitioners) are fitting candidates... It is too bad that drawing and quartering has been abolished." That was surely the opinion and language of Rehnquist, not Jackson! Indeed, Jackson voted to hear arguments in favor of a stay of the Rosenbergs' execution, but a majority of the justices denied the stay without oral argument.

CONSERVATIVE biographer Phillip Kurland, in his biography of Jackson, disputed that Jackson himself - who was America's chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials - ever held segregationist views. A later memo written by Rehnquist, also to Jackson, expanded on Rehnquist's views concerning race: "It is about time the court faced the fact that the white people in the South don't like the colored people."

Donald Cronson, a co-clerk who agreed the memo was prepared at the behest of Jackson to reflect a pro-Plessy view, confirmed that Rehnquist regularly defended Plessy's segregationist philosophy at luncheon meetings with other clerks. In addition, classmates of

Rehnquist at law school attest to the fact that he harbored segregationist views while at Stanford. Other facts about Rehnquist underscore the contentions that he may have lied when he attributed the segregationist views he expressed in the memo to his boss.

During the same confirmation process, evidence was introduced of a racist restrictive covenant in a deed to Rehnquist's property, and several senators were concerned about accounts that Rehnquist bullied minority voters at Arizona polls when he was a young Republican activist.

The totality of the evidence led many observers, including several senators, to conclude that it was far more likely that the Rehnquist memorandum reflected the long-standing segregationist views of Rehnquist rather than the more egalitarian views of Jackson, and that Rehnquist had resorted to "the dead man did it" defense.

His claim also sounds like the now-familiar "It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' (or in this case, 'I') is." This led *The New York Times* to question Rehnquist's truthfulness: "A chief justice can be less than inspiring or less than an ardent civil libertarian, but he cannot be less than a champion of truth."

Ultimately, Rehnquist was confirmed with more than one-third of the senators voting against him, several because they thought he had been untruthful in his testimony. If a two-thirds vote - the vote required to remove the president - were required, Rehnquist would have lost.

It will be interesting to observe the dynamic between Rehnquist and those senators who believe he may have been guilty of one of the same crimes for which the president is being tried.

(United Feature Syndicate, Inc.)

Missed opportunity

DANIEL BLOCH

Last week was not Ehud Barak's finest. Two weeks ago, after many months of dull and lackluster performances and a great loss of popularity, he suddenly rose to meet the challenges before him. But, as Andy Warhol once said, he had had his 15 minutes of glory. Then he began to slip.

Last week he lost the best chance to widen his lead in the polls.

Amnon-Lipkin Shahak was slipping in his popularity and his centrist party was going nowhere. Most realistic politicians distanced themselves from that party, fearing it will be aborted before conception. From Limor Livnat on the Right to Haim Ramon and Avraham Burg on the Left, people refused to board a political Titanic before its maiden voyage.

Only those who had nothing to lose by leaving their old parties were willing to join Shahak. Even Yitzhak Mordechai, the last hope of the center, was still hesitating to leave his home in the Likud.

Barak, because of his misguided decisions, gave the center another chance at survival. He also allowed Binyamin Netanyahu to rise from the ashes and to justifiably claim that news of his political death was premature.

One would assume Barak now realizes what a major error it was to agree to postpone the elections to mid-May instead of holding them in mid-March. This long period of campaigning will enable the government to use all the tricks in its arsenal, especially those that belong to the Finance Ministry, to win votes.

He thus had even more reason to use his party's convention platform to set himself apart. He should have demonstrated courageous leadership, leadership that unites and includes all his supporters. He could have proved that Labor is a truly democratic party, led by a team of good men and women, where Barak is just first among equals - and not a one-man show like in Netanyahu's Likud.

This should have been Barak's message: My government will be a democratic one, where everyone is heard and nobody is bypassed or silenced. My ministers won't need to resign because everybody will be consulted, and heard, unlike at present. My foreign minister will lead the peace talks, and I won't support the governor of the Bank of Israel behind the back of my finance minister. And, most importantly, my defense minister will not learn about crucial operations after they were decided upon without him.

Instead, Barak succeeded in antagonizing all his party's leading figures. No one would have objected to adding prominent national figures to the list or to incorporating political groups, such as Geshet or Meimad, to form a new political bloc. But no one wants to give Barak carte blanche because of his lackluster record of political strategy and performance.

His speech at the convention was dull and uninspiring. He was given a prime-time opportunity to move public opinion. He could have delivered an inspiring message in the first 10 minutes, stating his program for his government's first hundred days, making clear the main differences between his administration and the present one.

Instead, he used hackneyed clichés and dull slogans, attacking his main rival in a very unconvincing way. What a lost opportunity!

TODAY we are exactly four months away from the first round of the elections. We face a very difficult and tumultuous period. Public opinion will be taking a roller-coaster ride, and a very rough one at that. If Barak, Shahak and Mordechai continue to make crucial mistakes, they will provide Netanyahu with a smooth ride to another victory.

At this point it is Mordechai that can turn the wheel in another direction. If he stays in the Likud he boosts the chances of the prime minister. If he leaves, he makes it almost impossible for Bibi to win.

If he stays, he will not remain defense minister after the elections, even if Netanyahu wins and wants to keep his promises. In all probability, there will be a broad coalition put together after this splintering campaign, and the Defense portfolio will have to go to Barak or Shahak. On the other hand, if Barak wins, due to the vital help of Mordechai, he will surely get back Defense, because Netanyahu or Shahak could be satisfied with other portfolios, such as Foreign Affairs.

The result of the next elections is at this moment in Mordechai's hands, and even more - on his conscience.

Can he trust Netanyahu, not only on the personal and political questions, but mainly on his handling of defense policy and the continuation of the peace process?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHABBAT MANHUNT

Sir, - A propos your item "Shabbat manhunt for observant officer" (January 10), I am reminded of an old classic concerning the wise men of Chelm:

In the days before alarm clocks, it was the custom for the beadle of the prayer house to go from house to house and knock on the windows to waken the men for morning prayers. One morning there was a heavy snowfall. It seemed a great pity to soil the pristine white carpet with the shammash's footprints. The wise

men deliberated and came up with the solution: Let four strong men carry the shammash from house to house so that he need not step on the snow...

How many officers broke their Shabbat in order that our devout young officer keep his? How much anxiety, and how much in plain cash did this cost?

SARA SCHACTER

Jerusalem.

MARGINAL ERROR

Sir, - I am writing to convey to you that we were very pleased with the publication in your paper of the very interesting article (titled "Polish President: Dispute over crosses at Auschwitz will be solved" (January 11).

However, please be informed that you made an error when citing Aleksander Kwasniewski, the president of Poland, talking to reporters at Yad Vashem.

You quoted President Kwasniewski as telling reporters: "I think that antisemitism in Poland is emerging," while the president actually said: "I think that antisemitism in Poland is a margin."

TERESA GRABCYNSKA-DRECKA
Director of the Press Office

Warsaw.

LEBANON WITHDRAWAL

Sir, - No month and sometimes no week passes without one of our soldiers being killed in South Lebanon. The security zone, created to avoid terrorist infiltration in Galilee, has been a success. Now, we should reconsider our position, for instance, as follows:

1. Informing the world we are going to withdraw, respecting the UN decisions and our own interest for peace.

2. Withdrawing until the Israeli part of the international border.

3. Attacking, in defense, Beirut's economic infrastructure and/or Lebanon or Syrian places of interest, if we are attacked by Hizbullah after the withdrawal.

Peace treaties with Egypt, Jordan, Sinai's demilitarization and the new axis between Jerusalem and Ankara allow the State of Israel to take some distance and advantage with the Lebanon and Syria problem.

PIERRE SABA MOSSE

Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On January 17, 1934, *The Palestine Post* criticized together with the Hebrew press, the government's weakness and departure from the rule for allowing the Arab Executive to organize street demonstrations against Jews, thus nullifying its own neutrality.

50 years ago: On January 17, 1949, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Israeli army had vacated four Lebanese villages, while the Lebanese forces moved out from one village it occupied in the northwestern Galilee.

25 years ago: On January 17,

1974, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had returned to Israel from Aswan with President Sadat's suggestions for the third "crucial and definitive" round of talks on Israel-Egyptian disengagement.

Alexander Zvielli

Eisenbergers a smash hit at Gordon

AT THE AUCTIONS

Paintings from the Israeli collection of Vera and Jano Eisenberger were a smash hit at Gordon's 44th Tel Aviv auction on January 5. An early Nahum Gutman of a young girl with a basket doubled its estimate to go for \$100,250 while a Mordecai Ardon abstraction from 1968 went for \$105,750. Economic uncertainties notwithstanding, the sale notched up a record \$1.75m. Demand centered on the rarer items and those of top quality by artists no longer with us.

Another Eisenberger, Gutman's *Boats in Port*, 1962, went for \$82,650. An abstract Sternatzky oil from 1969 went for \$25,875. Both these lots doubled their estimates. And, unexpectedly, a Marcel Janco of Acre port from 1948 also doubled its estimate to go for an amazing \$93,650. A flower piece by Reeven Rubin, oils, 1961, went over its estimate for a healthy \$89,250. A building scene by Gutman from 1956 went for \$49,650.

Hungarian-born international Tel Aviv and Vienna businessman Eisenberger, first came here as a Mahal volunteer in 1948. He has in the past built up collections of Judaica and Austro-Hungarian painting. An Arle Aroch sold well at this sale for \$71,650, double its estimate; and oil by Levamon of Ein Kerem doubled its estimate at \$20,700.

A RECENTLY established Tel Aviv monthly aimed at art collectors, *Mechira Pumbit* ("Public Auction"), edited by Yehuda May and Yavir Egozi, is an efficient, well-printed and valuable addition to the burgeoning art business here. Dramatically designed and printed in excellent color on glossy stock, its 88 pages are packed with news

about upcoming auctions and current art exhibitions like the Merzbacher show at the Israel Museum. Its January-February edition contains a welcome innovation: an alphabetical gazetteer by artist's name of auction prices, with details of size and technique. This will be updated in all forthcoming editions. There's also a guide to current Israeli art exhibitions, with full details as to dates and hours.

Special articles deal with antiquities and ancient glass and this time there's a delightful section dealing with children's book illustrations, featuring glorious illustrations by the likes of Arthur Rackham and Leslie Brooke.

The approach is generally down-to-earth. The only bad news is that this profusely illustrated effort is in Hebrew only. I daresay the demand for an English edition would not be great enough to cover the investment required. Perhaps adding short English extracts and putting the gazetteer in English as well as Hebrew might do the trick.

Mechira Pumbit's subscription department is at POB 98425, Tel Aviv 61130. Tel: (03) 649-4024 or e-mail nogbinar@netvision.net.il.

SALES OF works by "Old Masters" at Sotheby's New York on January 27/28 are divided into three parts, beginning with many beautiful drawings on the 27th. The other two sales are headed "Fine Old Master Paintings" and "Important Old Master Paintings."

What's the difference? Let me explain. The "Fine" lots are almost without exception listed in decreasing order of rank as attributed to, follower of, studio of, circle of, style of, manner of, after (a copy). Their prices are fairly modest.

On the other hand, the "Important" lots are mostly "ascribed to" which is Sotheby's highest category of authenticity, though not "an unqualified statement as to authorship."

Most readers will have never heard of most of the Italian,



Nahum Gutman: Girl With a Basket, oils, 1936 (\$100,250 at Gordon, Tel Aviv)

Netherlandish, German, English and Spanish artists in these sales. Some of them are very fine. Take a page of studies of a woman and her hands in red chalk on red-washed paper, attributed to Benedetto Luti (1666-1724). It is one of the more expensive drawings but certainly worth its estimate (\$10,000-\$15,000).

In the "Fine" sale is a handsome

portrait of a gentleman by English-born (if I remember rightly) Cornelis Jonson van Ceulen (1593-1662) author of several portraits in the Israel Museum (\$12,000-\$16,000); and a portrait of Bernardo Bini attributed to Pietro Paolini (1603-81) with a top estimate of \$30,000.

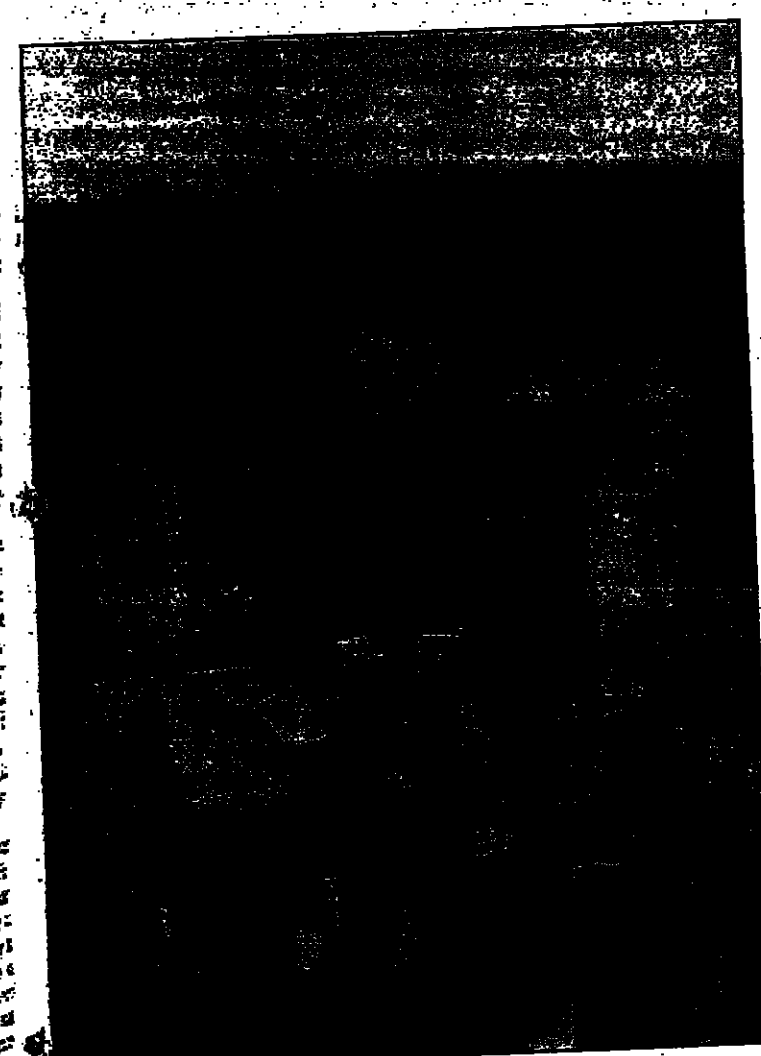
Some of the "Important" sales have much much higher estimates:

a Jan Steen of a peasant fair may go to \$900,000 and a Bartolomeo Schedoni (1578-1615) of the *Rest on the Flight to Egypt* has a top estimate of \$600,000.

There are dozens of marvelous pictures among the 534 lots in this sale, including various Brueghels: one by Pieter the Younger, *The Triumph of Death*, may reach \$1.5m.



Marcel Janco: Port of Acre, oils, 1948 (\$93,650 at Gordon, Tel Aviv)



Mordecai Ardon: From the Old City, oils, 1968 (\$105,750 at Gordon, Tel Aviv)

More people, less global resources

Earthly Concerns



By Dvora Ben Shaul

As we start the countdown to 2000, the world is faced with a variety of problems unlike those people have ever faced before.

Over the past century, the world's population has tripled to about six billion. At the same time, the consumption of raw materials has increased, not three times, but a staggering 10 times.

Many economists, agronomists and other experts fear that the resources available will be totally unable to supply the world's needs, once the population approaches eight billion.

This is especially true with regard to food. The demand for protein, for example, is expected to more than double in the coming three or four decades. The question is, if we are unable to pro-



Over the past century, the world's population has tripled to about six billion.

duce enough grain to supply a subsistence ration to the burgeoning population - and most experts predict that we will be unable to do so then where will we find the resources to grow the grain needed to feed the animals that are expected to supply that protein?

This question of food is complicated by two salient problems. Global temperatures over the past decade have been the highest recorded since the mid-19th century, when the keeping of temperature records began.

If this trend continues, and it is expected that it will, it poses a risk to food crops, particularly in the semitropical and tropical areas. At the same time, forest clearing

has resulted in devastating fires that threaten entire areas. This past year, in Indonesia alone, 1,100 airplane flights were canceled because of the smoke from these fires; the global loss from this factor alone reaches the billions of dollars.

In addition, of the 242,000 identified plant species, more than

33,000 have become extinct or are on the verge of extinction, mostly from the destruction of forests and woodlands. Climatic changes have also resulted in floods of unprecedented fury. If these continue, as they might, food production will be threatened over additional vast areas.

There are other human tragedies that need even more immediate attention. In Africa the population had doubled over the past 30 years and in several countries as much as 25 percent of the population is HIV-positive. These countries are expected to lose at least 25 percent of their population from AIDS within 30 years.

There are more refugees, displaced persons and homeless people today than at any time in the history of the world, even more than after World War II. There are also more people living on a subsistence diet, if not actually starving, than at any time in human history.

It's a grim picture that lies ahead but these challenges must be faced. To deal with these problems is going to take the kind of courage and dedication that few of us can envision.

We can only hope that the people of the world will be able to solve them.

Why ice floats

Why do ice cubes float in a glass of water when they're made of the same substance - water? Danny, age 12, Kiryat Tivon.

Prof. Avraham Katzir, an expert in applied physics at Tel Aviv University, answers:

The density of ice is a bit less than the density of water. Density is the relationship between weight and volume. When water freezes, it changes from a liquid structure to a crystal, which is structured differently from water - leaving more room between the molecules.

This phenomenon occurs not only at home. Glaciers, which are giant pieces of ice, float on water too; even though they are heavy, the water is denser, so they float.

When I put ice cubes from the freezer into a bowl at room temperature, some of them freeze together, while others do not. What is the reason for this? Cecile, Ramat Gan.

Prof. Katzir answers this one too: Ice is produced at below-zero temperatures in the freezer. When you move them to room temperature, some of them - depending on where they are in the pile - will begin melting faster. This makes them wet. When they touch each other, the cold from the inside of the ice cubes freezes the water and solders them together. It's also possible that the bowl you put them in or your hands were a bit wet, and this caused the soldering effect.

When someone tickles my foot or underarm, I laugh uncontrollably, but if I tickle myself, it doesn't bother me at all. Why? Anat, Omer.

Tell Me Why asked half-a-dozen Israeli psychologists this question and, while they all laughed, no one was sure how to explain it. However, New Scientist magazine recently reported on new British research that explains this phenomenon: Sarah-Jayne Blakemore and colleagues of University College in London studied the brains of six volunteers while the palms of their hands were tickled slightly with a foam pad, held either by themselves or by another person. A part of the brain called the somatosensory cortex was activated more when someone else

did the tickling, and a part of the brain called the cerebellum was deactivated when subjects tried to tickle themselves, the researchers found.

Based on the findings, the researchers suspect that when someone tries to tickle himself or herself, the deactivation of the cerebellum sends a message to the somatosensory cortex that essentially dampens the tickling sensation.

"This difference suggests that the cerebellum is involved in predicting the specific sensory consequences of movements, providing the signal that is used to cancel the sensory response to self-generated stimulation," the researchers wrote in the November issue of *Nature Neuroscience*. "This finding might explain why tactile stimuli are perceived as less tickly when self-produced."

My daughter, who wears braces, developed a serious gum infection because of the fixed brace. She didn't feel a thing - no pain at all. How is it possible that when an oral surgeon does gum surgery, the patient would feel it without an anesthetic. If there are nerves in the gums, why didn't my daughter feel swelling from infection? Lizzie, Tel Aviv.

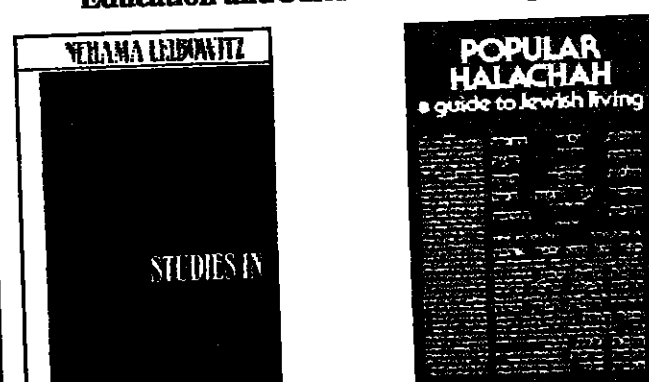
Prof. W.S. of the periodontics department at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine, replies:

There are nerves in the gums, which would be the reason for pain if one underwent periodontal surgery without anesthetic. The problem with periodontal disease - which is very widespread in older people - is that the swelling and bleeding that are the symptoms don't usually cause pain. In a healthy child with braces, the inflammation is caused by bacteria that form when food particles are not removed properly. There are a number of diseases in various parts of the body in which inflammation does not cause pain.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now, you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. fax it to (02) 538-9527 or send it by e-mail to jusie@jpost.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

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Bare talent from Bikini

Sabra Sounds



By Shai Tsur

Israel's dance and electronic music culture lies in the shadows of local pop, rarely getting much attention.

BIKINI 2
Bikini Hed Artzi/ LA 4

Occasionally an artist like Dana International breaks out of the dance world and manages to grab headlines but on the whole, most purveyors of Israeli electronic music must content themselves to do their own thing on the quiet.

This is a shame, given that some of the most interesting musical experiments are taking place specifically in the field of electronic music. Or, to be more precise, some of the most interesting experiments are coming from the collision of electronic music with other musical genres. A strange, postmodern hybrid has emerged - incorporating almost everything that came before it.

This certainly holds for the work of Haim Leroz and Karni Postel, the duo who go by the name of Bikini. While most Israeli bands stay with the tried-and-true formulas of pop, and rock 'n' roll, Bikini connect themselves with more up-to-date forms.

Their latest release, *Bikini 2*, takes its cues from dub and trip hop.

The characteristic languid beats and heavy bass lines are all in place.

At the same time, the band combines these elements with folk melodies and classical music. Those who think classi-

cal and electronic music go together like chalk and cheese are directed to the album's fascinating opening track, "Dark One." It is a traditional folk song, recorded in the past by the likes of Shoshana Damari. On this version, Bikini are joined by guest vocalist Suzy, who sings the lyrics in Ladino. Leroz sets up the track with a slow, heavy, electronic rhythm and vocal distortion. Perhaps the most interesting contribution, however, comes from Postel who sings and plays both piano and cello.

Postel is probably the only classically trained cellist working in Israeli popular music today. She uses the instrument sparingly and to great effect, adding an unexpected dose of warmth which counterbalances the sterile tendencies of the electronic instruments.

Bikini wear their influences on their sleeves. On "Diving," the two go for a full-on Portishead imitation, down to the breathy, distorted singing and heavy breakbeats. A dark streak runs through the album.

"Prince of Darkness," the companion track to "Diving," may sound like an ode to the Devil but is actually an evocation of loneliness, highlighted by a plaintive trumpet solo in the middle.

Not all the songs are such downers. Postel gets in a girl-power anthem of sorts with "Don't Come Near." The track has a jazzy, funky feel, built around a horn section, congas, and, yes, that engaging cello.

At certain points, *Bikini 2* feels like a house party for the group's musical friends. Assaf Amdurski shows up to play drums and keyboards on a few of the tracks. Peter Roth, late of Monika Sex, stops by with his bass. And singer/songwriter Johnny Shuali, who co-wrote two of the songs, contributes some piano playing.

Not surprisingly, Shuali, Roth, Leroz and Postel all worked together on Barry Sakharof's last album, itself an interesting blend of styles and electronic beats.

Leroz and Postel are essentially a pair of multi-talented musi-



Cellist Karni Postel adds 'unexpected warmth' to the tracks of 'Bikini 2.'

cians out to try something new. While their musical influences may be obvious, one could level this same complaint about most

Israeli bands. At least here we find a different kind of obvious. With the Israeli musical world filled with pop groups still try-

ing to be the Beatles, it's nice to know that you can still find some people who aspire to be Massive Attack instead.

Roseanne enamored with Kabbala

By TOM TUGEND

"It's weird," said Roseanne, the veteran television star, and now host of her own talk show. "I've been looking for answers since I was three years old. I've looked everywhere for 42 years. Now the fragmentations and divisions of my mind have come together. I have found the answers here."

"Here" is the Kabbala Learning Center in Los Angeles, where 350 people of all ages and persuasions crammed into the sanctuary last week to hear the famously outspoken actress lecture on her studies of the Kabbala, and the changes they have wrought in her life.

For 90 minutes, Roseanne held the stage in Los Angeles, linked by video to audiences in New York and Florida. She expounded her perception of kabbalistic teachings, reminisced about her unhappy childhood, fielded questions, and shared her unflinching take on her Hollywood colleagues.

Alternately describing Jews as the dumbest and smartest people on earth, she firmly put the creators of *The Prince of Egypt*, the animated movie on the life of Moses, into the former category.

"Only really dumb Jews would come up with that," Roseanne proclaimed cheerfully. "I'd like to invite [Jeffrey] Katzenberg and [Steven] Spielberg, and all the other 'Bergs', to come down here and study the word of God."

"God needs no rewrite. He needs only one draft," she added. "I'd like to apologize [for the movie] on behalf of all Hollywood Jews."

Kabbala, the Jewish mystical tradition dating back to the 12th century, combines elements of astrology and numerology, with speculations about the creation of the universe, God, and the soul.

Although the teachings at the Kabbala Learning Center (alternately described in its literature as the Kabbala Center) have been denounced by some mainstream



Roseanne

rabbis as a superficial pop version of the demanding study, the international institution attracts a growing number of Jews seeking the spiritual fulfillment that they apparently cannot find in conventional synagogues.

Particularly drawn are Hollywood stars, Jewish and non-Jewish, among them Madonna, and such reported disciples as Barbra Streisand, Elizabeth Taylor, Courtney Love, Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern. Roseanne herself has been taking lessons for four years, which she described as "the most fun I've ever had," and responsible for changing her acerbic personality.

To illustrate the transformation, she asked one woman in the audience to tell her. "I don't like you, Roseanne, and I don't believe anything you say." Her old "left" side would have wanted to slap the heckler's face, but Roseanne's new "right" side responded. "Thank you for sharing your opinion. You have given me the opportunity to receive the light. Roseanne credited her studies with not only spiritual transformation but with regenerating her diseased liver and gums.

She noted that before studying Kabbala, "I had no friends; and everyone thought I was crazy." But now, she observed, "Everyone thinks I'm crazy, because I talk of God all the time."

Jerusalem's new jazz corner



By David Isaacson

If specialist stores reflect living standards, life in Jerusalem has taken a turn for the better.

Mo' Jazz has just opened at 6

Rehov Schutz, on the second floor of disc store Balance. Beyond the sale of new and second-hand discs (and vinyl), Mo' Jazz has, in the words of owner Mark Morris, "the potential to become the jazz corner of Jerusalem."

Morris, a 28-year-old Londoner who immigrated three years ago, is just the guy to make such a venture work. He's hospitably installed a sofa, an espresso machine and a fine sound system (with optional headphones) featuring the coolest music you're likely to hear in a shop: John Coltrane was playing with Duke Ellington during my visit.

Add some damp mustiness to the freshly painted orange walls and mounted record sleeves illuminated by halogen spot lights and you'd have the ambience of a shop off London's Charing Cross Road.

Most important of course is the disc selection. Mo' Jazz currently stocks over 500 titles, with a particular emphasis on the Blue Note label. The range extends "from Dixieland to today's avant garde, including hard bop, cool, fusion, acid jazz and electronic," says Morris.

There are separate sections for organists, vocalists, blues and so

on. I counted 19 Miles Davis albums, from the groundbreaking *Birth of the Cool* (1949) to *Don Bop*, on which he was working when he died in 1991.

Unlike those specialist stores that won't carry anything too mainstream, Mo' Jazz doesn't strike an elitist attitude. The blues section isn't limited to blind cotton-pickers and preachers strumming one-string guitars in 1910, but includes the likes of Robert Cray and the Jeff Healey Band.

Morris does, however, take issue with the labels' habit of adding out-takes from the original sessions on their reissues.

"If the artist had wanted it he would have included it in the first place," he says. "It's ripping off the market."

"I don't have a problem with remastering to improve the sound quality," he adds, but here you're still more likely to find Coltrane's original *My Favorite Things* than Atlantic's recent deluxe reissue.

Morris says he became a jazz fan when, age 17, he first heard Coltrane's song, "My Favorite Things."

Today he'll tell you about, say, Tina Brooks's *Back to the Tracks* featuring Blue Mitchell.



John Coltrane

Jackie McLean and Paul Chambers) which was virtually unheard for a long time because, in the 1950s, "Blue Note forgot to issue it. [Blue Note founder Alfred] Lion admitted it."

And, if you want to hear it, Morris might give said disc a whirl.

Rod Stewart wants his wife back

By PAUL MAJENDIE

Veteran British rock star Rod Stewart says he hopes and prays his estranged wife Rachel Hunter will come back home and rebuild their eight-year-old marriage.

The couple, who have two children, Renee, 4, and Liam, 6, announced last week that they had separated.

"I still love Rachel very, very much indeed and I hope and pray that she will eventually come back," Stewart told Britain's *Sunday People* tabloid from his Beverly Hills mansion in California.

"There has been no bitter bust-up and no-one else is involved. It is not about something I've done and it's not about something she

has done," said the rabble-rousing Scot once renowned for his raunchy image and passion for blondes.

The 54-year-old Stewart, who soared to fame in Britain with The Faces pop group, lived up to his sexy onstage image when he moved to Los Angeles, dating Scandinavian beauty Britt Ekland and model Kelly Emborg.

Stewart met Hunter, a blond model from New Zealand 23 years his junior, in 1990, when she was 22.

Stewart tearfully told *The Sunday People*: "Rachel changed my life. I was so sure she was the woman I was going to spend the rest of my life with."

"We are talking about our problems ourselves and we believe we can sort them out," he added.

Stewart, famed for such megahits as "Maggie May" and "Da Ya Think I'm Sexy," said: "We realized there was a problem and we're both too honest with each other to live a lie."

The gravel-voiced singer, who is reportedly worth about \$100 million and boasts a rich and varied art collection, said Rachel was living nearby and they were talking every day to try to restore their marriage.

"I really want her to come back. But she hasn't gone very far. We haven't stopped seeing each other," he said.

"Rachel needs some time and space to find herself and work out what she wants to do with her life and I've reluctantly agreed," he added. "It's been very hard for me to deal with."

Smith, Brooks, and Dion win at American Music Awards

Rapper-turned-actor Will Smith triumphed at the American Music Awards last Monday night, capturing three trophies on the strength of the album *Big Willie Style*.

Smith, who currently stars in the movie *Enemy of the State*, won favorite pop/rock album and favorite male artist and album in the soul/rhythm and blues category.

"I'd been away for awhile," he said earlier as he picked up the night's first award at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. "I'm just glad people are accepting me again making the music."

Country superstar Garth Brooks and Canadian songstress Celine Dion both won two trophies apiece. Shania Twain, who had a leading five nominations, won only as favorite country female artist.

Alabama won its 21st career American Music Award, while Eric Clapton, Lauryn Hill, Aerosmith, N Sync, Master P, Pearl Jam, K-Ci & JoJo, Dixie Chicks and Enrique Iglesias also were winners.

Brooks was country's favorite male artist and his *Sevens* won the country album category, giving him a career total of 13 AMAs.

"When they give it to the old square guy, it's cool," Brooks said backstage.

Dion, one of the best-selling singers of 1998, won favorite pop/rock female artist and adult contemporary artist.

"Thank you for this magic moment," said Dion.

Eric Clapton won as favorite pop/rock male artist, while perennial favorite Alabama was named favorite country band.

"This never gets old," drummer Mark Herndon said as Alabama extended the record for most American Music Awards. Added guitarist-singer Randy Owen: "When you think of the thousands of miles we flew to do shows and all the cities it's just amazing that we're all here."

Showing the American Music Awards' tendency to favor tried-and-true performers, Janet Jackson won the ninth of her career, female soul/R&B artist; Aerosmith won its fifth, for pop/rock band; and Pearl Jam also got its fifth, alternative artist.

The awards show provided a possible forecast for the Grammys: Twain is nominated for six Grammys, Dion is com-



Singer Celine Dion, seen here with the People's Choice Award she had won the night before.

peting for four, and Smith has one nod.

Lauryn Hill, who last week received a leading 10 nominations for the February 24 Grammys, was named favorite new soul/R&B artist, her only AMA bid.

N Sync took the trophy for new pop-rock artist. The Dixie Chicks were honored as the top new country artist, and Enrique Iglesias followed his father, Julio Iglesias, who last year was recipient of the American Music Awards' first favorite Latin music artist trophy.

"I never thought I'd win an American music award for singing Spanish," the younger Iglesias said.

Titanic won for movie sound-

track over *Armageddon* and *City of Angels*.

The show also included a reunion performance of Blondie, the 1970s New Wave band that broke up 16 years ago, and the presentation of the annual Award of Merit to Billy Joel. Past recipients include Irving Berlin, Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Michael Jackson, Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder.

"This is a great job," Joel told the audience. "You get an award for doing something you love." Winners of American Music Awards were selected by a national sampling of approximately 20,000 listeners. Names on the ballots were compiled from music industry publications.

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Smoking pot to ease pain or nausea

Health authorities in Israel may allow the use of cannabis on an individual 'compassionate' basis without legalizing it, Judy Siegel-Itzkovich reports

Bill Clinton smoked it but "didn't inhale," and in the 'Sixties it was a symbol of the baby boomers' revolt against the previous generation. However, these American rebels didn't invent the use of cannabis. Traces of it have been found in 4,500-year-old skeletons dug up near Beit Shemesh.

But some Israelis who want to smoke marijuana or hashish don't want to get "high." They merely seek relief from severe, chronic pain, muscular spasms and asthma attacks, or from nausea caused by chemotherapy or AIDS.

Possession of any amount of cannabis is illegal in Israel and most other countries, even for one's personal "recreational" use, so when patients are "prescribed" cannabis by doctors for medicinal uses, they risk arrest and imprisonment.

"My doctor, a professor at Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital, suggested I smoke marijuana to relieve my weight loss," said Yossi B., who discovered he had AIDS five years ago when hospitalized after an accident.

"I was down to 60 kilos and needed to gain weight to strengthen my immune system, but I suffered nausea and had no appetite. I was prescribed a pill with a synthetic form of the active ingredient in marijuana, but it was of no use."

Since the pill, called Marinol, is taken orally, it takes hours before it is effective, while smoking allows the active ingredient to reach the bloodstream immediately and the patient can stop when he gets relief. Yossi applied to the Health Ministry for permission to get "pot" legally, but he was turned down.

Then he was caught by police in

possession of 70 grams, arrested and jailed in a crowded, filthy cell. "They beat me," he claimed, "even though I had just undergone an operation. I got out and filed a complaint, but nothing happened."

YOSSI testified at a recent meeting of the Knesset Anti-Drugs Committee, chaired by Meretz MK Naomi Chazan, which devoted itself to discussing the medicinal uses of cannabis. The committee, which had previously discussed the issue in 1995 without taking any action, decided this time to make forceful recommendations to the Health Ministry.

The Knesset committee recommended that a committee of medical and legal experts be charged with considering applications, on a "compassionate basis," from individual patients asking for cannabis. The committee said that this would not legalize marijuana or hashish, but reduce the suffering of patients for whom no other drugs were effective.

The committee also called on researchers to conduct clinical trials on the soft drugs to determine their safety and efficacy and encouraged pharmaceutical companies and other organizations to finance the research.

If any laws have to be amended to allow compassionate use of cannabis, Chazan said, "we will take it upon ourselves to prepare legislation."

The British House of Lords endorsed the idea of allowing certain patients to use cannabis legally, but the House of Commons opposed it. The idea has also been favored in non-binding US referen-

da in Alaska, Nevada, Oregon and Washington State.

Representatives of the Health Ministry, Prisons Service and Israel Police who appeared at the committee session were not enthusiastic about the issue being raised again. They noted the many problems it involved.

Ministry associate director-general Dr. Boaz Lev said his office does not have an official position on the medical uses of cannabis due to the lack of unshakable scientific proof of its efficacy. There appear to be benefits as well as dangers from marijuana and hashish use, not to mention the problems, he said. In addition, clinical trials are difficult to carry out since every batch of cannabis contains different amounts of active ingredients.

The ministry, Lev said, would prefer that the Knesset pass legislation to set down rules, but is willing to consider approval for a very small number of extreme cases on compassionate grounds. He noted that a few years ago, one severely ill asthma patient was given permission, in a long, drawn-out process, to use cannabis by then-director-general Prof. Mordechai Shani.

A police representative objected to suggestions that patients who receive approval to use cannabis should be supplied from the vast police stores of the drug nabbed in raids. What was to prevent patients selling or giving it to friends or thieves reaching government-sanctioned plots and taking cannabis for their own use?

A police doctor said the quality of the product is also critical, as black-market cannabis can contain chemicals, bacteria or fungi harmful to



There appear to be benefits as well as dangers from marijuana and hashish use. (Camera Press)

the AIDS patients with severely weakened immune systems. But advocates of cannabis for medicinal use noted that in Holland the government runs and closely supervises the cultivation of cannabis with a specified and uniform amount of the active ingredient THC.

Very different concerns were voiced by an Education Ministry

representative, who stated that when the Anti-Drugs Committee discussed the issue in 1995, people read about it and thought pot smoking had already been legalized.

"We worry about the effect on school pupils. If you allow compassionate use to patients, you must stress that it is still illegal for everybody else," she stressed.

Prof. Raphael Mechoulam of the Hebrew University's School of Pharmacy - considered one of the world's leaders in cannabis research - spoke out in the committee for the use of cannabis in extreme cases. "It may ease the painful night spasms of multiple sclerosis patients, reduce pain in accident victims who have suffered neurological damage and help AIDS patients to regain weight."

Mechoulam headed an Israeli-Scottish team that studied the effects of hashish on the brain, and in 1993 succeeded in identifying, isolating and synthesizing a previously unknown substance in the brain that functions much as the drug itself. The researchers named it anandamide, from the Sanskrit word *ananda*, meaning inner joy.

In 1964, Mechoulam was the first to isolate the active ingredient in cannabis, called THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). University of Buffalo scientists recently proved that anandamides - found in the testes, uterus and ovum - may play a role in regulating functions of human sperm and improve their ability to fertilize eggs.

Mechoulam said in an interview that he doubts that clinical trials of cannabis will be carried out here. Pharmaceutical companies have no interest in funding expensive research, as marijuana (coming from the leaves of the cannabis plant) and hashish (derived from the plant's resin) cannot be patented and therefore are not profitable.

"In addition, it's impossible to do a double-blind study - although a randomized, controlled study is possible - because any patient will know that he's smoking the real drug instead of some placebo."

The white-haired HU professor of medicinal chemistry said that during his most intensive research on cannabis, he used to get five kilos of the drug at a time from the police, after obtaining permission from the Health Ministry.

"They're very liberal about research, and they knew I wasn't going to put it to recreational use."

Mechoulam asserted that he opposes legalization of cannabis, as it can be dangerous to society. It can damage the lungs, impede memory and cause motor coordination problems, among other things, he said.

He also warned of the danger that soft drugs could act as stepping stones to hard drugs like heroin; the great majority of hard-drug addicts start by smoking tobacco and cannabis.

"When someone smoking marijuana drives, it can affect his judgment, and if taken along with alcohol, it can be deadly," Mechoulam said. "We have enough road accidents. The IDF is very strict when it catches front-line soldiers smoking pot. I wouldn't like my son to be in a tank with soldiers who are high on marijuana."

SMOKING cannabis can cause lung cancer, just like cigarettes, but the risk is lower because people don't smoke as many "joints" as two-pack-a-day tobacco smokers, Mechoulam continued.

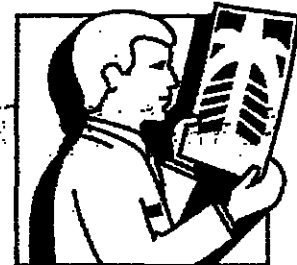
If Israeli researchers do succeed in launching clinical trials of cannabis, they won't be the first. With a \$1 million grant from the US National Institutes of Health, the University of California at San Francisco last May began the first-ever clinical trial on marijuana use for AIDS patients.

The research is examining the influence of marijuana on the immune system and on the amount of virus in the body, as well as its potential interactions with antiviral drugs such as protease inhibitors.

Over 60 patients are enrolled. A third is supplied with marijuana to smoke; a third takes Marinol; and the rest acts as a control group. The researchers are especially interested to see whether THC interacts with the drug cocktail taken by HIV patients.

Israel first with hepatitis A shots for all babies

Health Scan



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Starting in July, Israel will be the first country in the world to provide vaccinations for all babies against hepatitis A. This, says Health Ministry public health department chief Dr. Alex Levinthal, will make Israel's vaccination schedule in the basket of health services, "broader and better" than any other country's.

The cost of vaccinating 130,000 babies at the age of 18 months will be some NIS 7.5 million a year. Merck, Sharp and Dohme, the international pharmaceutical company, won a Health Ministry tender to supply the vaccine to family health (*tipat halav*) centers around the country.

The centers have been vaccinating children against hepatitis B since 1992; the government already spends a total of NIS 22 million each year for all baby vaccinations, including those against polio, hemophilus influenza B (meningitis), measles, mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and hepatitis B.

Only recently did an active hepatitis A vaccine, offering lifetime protection against the virus, come onto the market.

Before that, passive, short-term immunity was conferred by gamma-globulin shots (which were often difficult to find in pharmacies, due to a worldwide shortage).

Hepatitis A is endemic in certain sectors of the population, especially large, lower-income families such as Arabs and haredim.

Levinthal notes that toddlers are usually asymptomatic, so they are usually the ones to infect their older siblings.

The ministry will devote special attention to the haredi community, which has a relatively low rate of infant vaccinations.

Every year, four to 10 haredi children who develop fulminant hepatitis A infections need a liver transplant or die. Vaccination coverage among the Arab community, however, is nearly 100%.

The virus is transmitted via infected water or food or by contact with feces, which explains why the disease is commonly found in day-care centers.

The number of reported cases is about 4,300 per year, but the actual number is estimated at 10 to 20 times that figure, depending on whom you ask.

The incubation period is up to six weeks, during which the patient shows no symptoms. After the disease appears, the symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, yellowing of the skin, weakness and dark-colored urine.

Most cases pass without incident, but in some patients, there is an acute liver infection that requires a transplant.

WHY WE DON'T DONATE

The failure of healthy people to inform their families of their willingness to donate organs for transplant deters many relatives from eventually giving their consent when the person dies.

This is one of the main findings of the first-ever face-to-face survey of Israeli Jews on their attitudes toward donating organs.

The survey, conducted by the Pori polling organization among 1,002 people over the age of 18 in their own homes, was reported by Peri Kedem-Friedrich of Bar-Ilan University's psychology department and Rina Rachmani of the Israel Transplant Center in the latest issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association.

The researchers thought positions on donating organs, revealed in the privacy of one's home, were important, given the fact that organs are donated by only eight people a year per million, while the need for organs is 50 per million.

Only 2.5% of the population hold a card from ADL, the voluntary organization that registers people



The number of reported cases of hepatitis A is about 4,300 per year, but the actual number is estimated at 10 to 20 times more. (Sarit Uziel)

willing to donate their organs after death.

The more religiously observant those polled claimed they were, the less likely they were to agree to donate their organs and those of their close relatives or even to register for an ADL card.

Over 53% of the Orthodox said they opposed donating their organs. 37% opposed giving relatives' organs and 70% opposed signing an ADL card - compared to 19%, 17% and 49% respectively for secular Jews.

Although many leading rabbinical arbiters say that saving another's life by donating an organ is a great mitzva, religious Jews (and many non-observant and traditional ones) generally are afraid even to consider the idea.

Observant Jews who refused to register

in doctors, who "would more quickly set the time of death to improve the chances of the transplant," even though the "harvesting" of the organ and the transplant are performed by two completely separate teams.

Nevertheless, the potential of people who were at least theoretically willing to donate their organs was relatively large (38% unconditionally and 7% conditionally), with only 25% saying outright that they would refuse.

The authors conclude that the mass media should be used more to explain organ donation and transplantation; that doctors and rabbis should be used in an information campaign; and that people interested in donating should express their views clearly to relatives, who were reluctant to donate a deceased loved one's organs if unaware of that person's wishes.

MALNUTRITION AMONG THE AGED

A quarter of residents in 33 geriatric institutions in Tel Aviv are suffering from low body weight, the Health Ministry found in a survey conducted recently.

As a result, officials said they would increase supervision of menus and nutrition in old age homes.

The ministry said that in 39% of the institutions surveyed the nutritional value of menus was found to be deficient, while in 33% there were shortcomings in the cooking techniques.

Over half of the shortcomings had been corrected when the officials visited a second time.

The survey, conducted by the JDC-Brookdale Institute, is aimed at improving conditions in geriatric nursing homes as part of 1999's activities for the Year of the Elderly declared by the World Health Organization.

The ministry is now working on a new method to promote the functioning of old age homes in the field of nutrition and improving the diet of elderly residents.

Study: Blame bad grades, not violent behavior, on mom

By DAVID WILLIAMSON

If your mother did poorly in school, you can try to blame your bad grades on her - with backing from some US scientists - but not your tendency toward violent behavior.

Widespread concern that aggressive, violent behavior invariably passes from one generation to the next may be reduced because of a new long-term University of North Carolina study. Children whose mothers were aggressive or violent during childhood were no more aggressive or violent on average than other youngsters whose mothers behaved better, the researchers said.

They also found a strong correlation between children's academic performance in school and how their mothers had fared in the classroom, a generation earlier. If mothers failed as children or teenagers, their children tended to earn poor grades as well.

The research involved testing and following

children for more than 17 years as they grew and had children of their own. From two original samples in the Carolina Longitudinal Study totaling 695 subjects, researchers concentrated on 57 pairs of teenage mothers and their children. Subjects' positive and problem behaviors were analyzed annually even if they had moved away from North Carolina.

"In our society, there is a pervasive general assumption that there is a cycle of violence and aggression transmitted automatically from parents to their children," said psychologist Dr. Robert Cairns, director of UNC's center for developmental science. "But evidence that this might be true is very modest despite the public's belief that there's overwhelming evidence."

Cairns and his colleagues found no significant link between behavioral problems the women experienced during childhood and adolescence and trouble their children got into at the same points in their lives. In addition, they uncovered little evidence that sub-

jects who were aggressive or violent as girls showed poorer than average parenting skills after they bore children.

A report on the findings appears in the *Developmental Psychology* December issue, a major professional journal. It is not clear why no direct relationship was found linking violence and aggression in the mother's childhood to their children, Cairns said. One reason may be that other people, such as fathers and grandparents, play significant constructive roles. Another is that being newly responsible for an infant may mature a girl so that she will try to help her children avoid the problems she experienced.

"What we think our work suggests is that windows of change sometimes occur naturally in unlikely places, and we can't cast young people away just because of a lousy beginning or hellish adolescence," Cairns said. "We also think our findings will be quite important in the long run because they challenge the conventional wisdom."

"Although the new results will be controversial, they are good news for folks who hope to make positive changes in our society."

Leaving aside whatever contribution genes make to children's academic performance, the psychologist said mothers who performed poorly in school tended not to create the kind of stimulating atmosphere children need during their first five years to be successful academically.

A particular strength of the study was that it followed subjects closely through adolescence and parenting, from the childhood of the parents to the childhood of their offspring, Cairns said.

Almost all previous comparable studies involved looking backward through subjects' lives, and as a result key information was missing or incomplete. Limitations included the modest size of the group analyzed and that the study so far tracked children only through the second grade. (University of North Carolina News Service)

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The potentially lifesaving bandage and a related foam and spray contain freeze-dried clotting agents in concentrations 50 to 100 times greater than in human blood. (Avraham Vered)

'Magic' bandage could save lives on roads, battlefields

By DAVID DISHNEAU

A bandage that can stop severe bleeding within seconds, potentially saving thousands of lives on battlefields, highways and city streets, has been developed by US Army and American Red Cross researchers.

The experimental bandage and a related foam and spray contain freeze-dried clotting agents in concentrations 50 to 100 times greater than in human blood, according to William Drohan, senior director of plasma research at the Red Cross Laboratory in Rockville, Maryland.

"This is really the first significant advance in emergency treatment to stem blood loss in about 3,000 years," Drohan said.

The products have stopped arterial bleeding in animals within 15 to 60 seconds, reducing blood loss by 50% to 85%, the scientists said.

The US military has spent about \$3 million subsidizing the research, because bleeding is the most common cause of battlefield deaths, according to Col. John Hess, head of the blood research detachment at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and inventor of the process that produced the bandage.

Drohan said he expects to begin clinical trials within a year at an army hospital in Texas, where the bandage will be applied to the gushing wounds from prostate removal surgery. The foam is intended for bullet wounds and other punctures that bleed from deep inside the body, while the clotting spray is for seeping wounds such as severe burns and torn muscle.

[The IDF Medical Corps continues to follow technological developments in the military medicine field, and knows about the American bandage. "At present, it is undergoing only preliminary testing, but when research reaches a more advanced stage, the Medical Corps will consider participating in a clinical trial."]

The products use a process developed at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland, that combines two key clotting agents - a protein called fibrinogen and an enzyme, thrombin - both derived from blood plasma. In contact with blood, they instantly begin forming a sticky lattice called fibrin that adheres to tissue and eventually becomes a scab.

Another fibrin product called Tissel, made by Baxter Healthcare Corp., was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration earlier this year. Tissel's preparation can take up to 40 minutes, though, limiting its effectiveness in emergencies.

The Red-Cross patented fibrin products are ready to use, Drohan said. The 10-by-10 centimeter bandage has a stiff, half-centimeter layer of clotting material that dissolves and coagulates when pressed into a wound. "If you can see blood, put it on. As soon as blood hits it, it turns into a gel," he said, adding that it begins setting within seconds.

The fragile bandage could be carried by soldiers and emergency medical technicians in a protective plastic package, he said. Except for Tissel, which is used during surgeries, the only way to stop bleeding is applying pressure to the wound, which sometimes works and sometimes doesn't, Drohan said.

He wouldn't discuss the possible price of the bandage, but he said it would become cheaper if genetically engineered animals were used to manufacture the components by excreting them in their milk. Pigs are already doing so in a project at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Half a liter of blood naturally contains a minute quantity of fibrinogen and an even smaller amount of thrombin.

"The time will come when we're able to make a lot of this material, using transgenic animals, when one or two of these bandages could be kept in every medicine chest," Drohan concluded. (AP)

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Dow surges over 200 points

Wall Street

Stock prices rose aggressively Friday, bouncing back from four days of losses, as investors cheered Brazil's plan to stop defending its troubled currency.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 2.4 percent, or 219.62 points, to finish at 9,340.55 — nearly erasing its 228-point loss Thursday.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index also turned in a stellar performance, gaining 3.1% or 71.39 points to close at 2,348.20.

Broad-market indexes were sharply higher as well, with the Standard & Poor 500 31.07 points higher at 1,267.38.

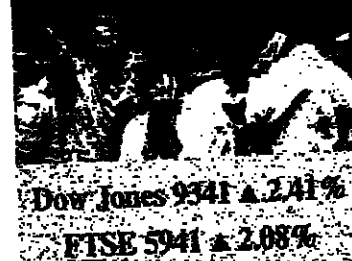
Recent economic troubles in Brazil have raised fears among investors that profits of US companies operating in Latin America could suffer. The Dow had lost more than 353 points in the previous two days of trading.

But Wall Street was pleased with Brazil's decision Friday to stop spending heavily to prop up its battered currency, the real. The move is seen as a way for Brazil to attract foreign investment and hold on to its currency reserves.

The Brazilian currency fell nearly 15% against the US dollar, but the main stock market in Sao Paulo — Latin America's largest exchange — soared more than 27% today, after plunging the last six sessions.

Brazil is the biggest and most important economy in Latin America, which accounts for 20% of US exports. Investors worry

STOCKS



earlier this week on Brazil's devaluation. American Express, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter all picked up strong gains.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by 11 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 617.32 million shares, down from Thursday's pace.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 24.22 at 1,236.31, and the Nasdaq composite index was up 47.36 at 2,324.18.

Asia

Most Asian stocks climbed back in late trade on Friday, shrugging off a fresh plunge on Wall Street and the recent currency devaluation in Brazil.

Volume remained thin throughout the region as the key Tokyo stock exchange was closed for Adults' Day, a holiday celebrating the coming of age of 20-year-olds.

Hong Kong came off early lows, although the market caught on to the regional rebound quite late and closed 0.35 percent down.

Brokers said that cautiousness over Friday's hike in interbank interest rates had pushed the Hang Seng index 35.73 points lower to 10,147.40.

It hit a low of 9,959.82 early in the morning session.

Blue chip heavyweight HSBC Holdings Ltd 0005, one of the few Hong Kong stocks with direct exposure to Brazil, was down HK\$5.00 or 2.49% at HK\$196. (AP, Reuters)

Dollar rises against yen and euro as stocks rally

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar rose against the Japanese yen and the euro Friday, on the back of strong rallies in the US and Brazilian stock markets.

Investors were cheered by news that Brazil's government decided to stop spending heavily to prop up its currency, the real, in world financial markets. The move is seen as a way for Brazil to attract foreign investment and save its currency reserves.

The dollar rose 8 percent against the real and gained against its other major counterparts. The dollar's gains were aided by a 33 percent surge in Brazil's main stock exchange and a 220-point gain in the Dow Jones industrial average, which ended four straight days of losses.

In late New York trading, the euro was quoted at \$1.1588, down from \$1.1710 late Thursday. The US currency also was quoted at 113.61 Japanese yen, up from 113.61. The dollar also was quoted at 1.3833 Swiss

francs, up from 1.3583, and 1.5243 Canadian dollars, down from 1.5333. The British pound fell to \$1.6518 from \$1.6567.

Currencies of the 11 countries participating in the euro are no longer traded separately and are tied to the euro by a fixed rate.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.820
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.060	0.190	0.560
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.1.99)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BUY	SELL	BANKNOTES	BUY	SELL	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	4.4352	4.5088	—	—	—	4.4408
U.S. dollar	4.0464	4.1107	3.97	4.17	4.0850	
EU euro	4.7248	4.8011	2.37	2.50	2.4440	
German mark	2.4157	2.4547	5.58	6.92	6.7782	
Pound sterling	6.7103	6.8186	6.70	0.75	0.7287	
French franc	0.7203	0.7320	3.62	3.70	3.6283	
Japanese yen (100)	3.5888	3.6467	2.11	2.22	2.1691	
Dutch florin	2.1440	2.1726	2.32	3.07	2.0088	
Swiss franc	2.9724	3.0227	0.50	0.54	0.5206	
Swedish krona	0.5153	0.5408	0.53	0.56	0.5463	
Norwegian krona	0.5405	0.5680	0.82	0.86	0.8423	
Danish krona	0.6347	0.6606	0.78	0.82	0.8039	
Finnish mark	0.7947	0.8206	2.59	2.72	2.6586	
Canadian dollar	2.6536	2.6948	2.50	2.64	2.5776	
Australian dollar	0.6483	0.6588	0.58	0.66	0.6536	
S. African rand	1.1719	1.1902	1.15	1.21	1.1849	
Belgian franc (10)	3.4336	3.4680	3.38	3.55	3.4738	
Austrian schilling (10)	2.4401	2.4785	2.40	2.52	2.4687	
Italian lire (1000)	5.6817	5.7734	5.58	5.99	5.7374	
Jordanian dinar	—	—	1.15	1.25	1.1979	
Egyptian pound	5.9992	6.0890	5.90	6.19	6.0894	
Irish punt	2.8397	2.8858	2.79	2.93	2.8729	
Spanish peseta (100)	—	—	—	—	—	

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Ostrovsky, Ramat Hashikma, 774-1613.

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A.S. Electronics Ltd.	24.5	-0.5
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Capitals stutter when opportunity knocks



STICKING LIKE GLUE - Rangers defenseman Jeff Beukeboom (r) battles Blackhawks winger Bob Probert for the puck in second-period action. Chicago won 3-1.



It's already halfway through the NHL season and the Washington Capitals are still shooting themselves in the foot.

Friday night, they lost a home game they hoped would point them in the right direction - 3-0 to the Montreal Canadiens.

"I can't figure out why there isn't more of a situation of desperation here, why we shouldn't play more like that," Capitals left wing Brian Bellows said. "The next three or four weeks are our season - we need it."

The Capitals have been the biggest mystery in the NHL this season. The defending Eastern Conference champions, beset by injuries, started slowly. But lately they picked up steam with a four-game winning streak before losing back-to-back shutouts at home.

"It was a big game and we didn't

show any heart," said Washington coach Ron Wilson, whose team was outshot 15-2 in the first period. "I'm just baffled that we could play so well the last five games and not appear to want the puck right from the get-go. We allowed them to dictate the pace."

Canadiens 3, Capitals 0

Jeff Hackett made 23 saves for his first shutout of the season as the Canadiens remained 12th in the 14-team conference.

Blackhawks 3, Rangers 1

Mike Maneluk skated on a breakaway and Jocelyn Thibault stopped 31 shots to snap visiting Chicago's seven-game winless streak.

Sabres 2, Bruins 1

Dominik Hasek made 33 saves and Brian Holzinger and Curtis Brown each scored a goal as the Sabres defeated the Bruins.

Devils 3, Lightning 1

Brian Rolston had a goal and an assist as the Devils scored three second-period power-play goals to end a three-game losing streak.

Montreal 12-0-3
Washington 0-0-4
First Period: 1. Montreal, Curjel 4 (Reich, Rucinski, 10:42). Second Period: 2. Montreal, Savard 9 (Koval, Corbin), 30. 3. Montreal, Rucinski 2 (Hodson, Darrach, 16:17). Third Period: None. Shots on goal: Montreal 15-5-25, Washington 2-10-23. Goals: Montreal, Hackett, Washington, Kotick. A-15,740.

Boston 0-1-1
Buffalo 0-1-2
First Period: None. Second Period: 1. Buffalo, Hatcher 13 (Zetterstrom, 12:28). Third Period: 2. Buffalo, Brown 11 (Barnaby, Saten), 4:59. 3. Boston, Kinsch 12 (Alson, Samsonov), 11:13. Shots on goal: Boston 13-14-24, Buffalo 10-9-24. Goals: Boston, Dufes, Buffalo, Hasek. A-18,595.

Tampa Bay 0-1-0
New Jersey 0-3-3
First Period: None. Second Period: 1. Tampa Bay, Tuck 11 (Gronin, Kuhn), 5:16 (pp). 2. New Jersey, Rolston 11 (Sylvestre, Gaudet), 7:21 (pp). 3. New Jersey, Sylvestre 12 (Folston, Holik), 14:29 (pp). 4. New Jersey, Pederson 8 (Shanahan, 16:22). Third Period: None. Shots on goal: Tampa Bay 6-8-20, New Jersey 12-13-33. Goals: Tampa Bay, Schenk. New Jersey, Brodeur. A-18,027.

Chicago 1-2-3
N.Y. Rangers 0-1-0
First Period: 1. Chicago, Gancus 10 (Emerson, Anisimov), 1:10. Second Period: 2. Chicago, Savard 6 (Sundstrom, Lemch), 10:21. Third

Period: 3. Chicago, Maneluk 5 (Zhemnov, Maroon), 4:35. 4. Chicago, Anisimov 24 (Emerson, Chelios), 18:57 (pp). Shots on goal: Chicago 6-7-12-25, New York 15-16-22. Goals: Chicago, Thibault. New York, Fleeter. A-18,200.

Phoenix 0-0-0
Nashville 1-0-1-2
First Period: 1. Nashville, Rostami 11 (Kellaway, Kovalenko), 13:40 (pp). Second Period: None. Third Period: 2. Nashville, Johnson 9, 18:07 (pp). Shots on goal: Phoenix 7-14-31, Nashville 13-8-10-31. Goals: Phoenix, Khabibulin. Nashville, Volokov. A-15,907.

Dallas 2-1-3
Anheim 0-1-1
First Period: 1. Dallas, Modano 15 (Lahav, 5:27). 2. Dallas, Lehman 15 (Modano, Hull), 13:71. Second Period: 3. Dallas, Keane 3 (Modano, Zubov), 1:10 (pp). Third Period: 4. Anheim, Olausson 5 (Morrison, Soderberg), 8:50 (pp). Shots on goal: Dallas 10-14-25, Anheim 8-6-12-28. Goals: Dallas, Selver, Anheim, Hebert. A-17,150.

Pittsburgh 1-1-2
San Jose 0-3-3
First Period: 1. Pittsburgh, Jarry 16 (Rios, Shalal), 2:50. Second Period: None. Third Period: 2. Jose, Modano 3 (Markov, Nolan), 5:25. 3. Pittsburgh, Jarry 10:33. 4. San Jose, Nolan 7 (Markov, Lowny), 17:47. Shots on goal: Pittsburgh 8-5-18, San Jose 5-9-23. Goals: Pittsburgh, Bannock. San Jose, Shalal. A-17,483.

Predators 2, Coyotes 0

Rookie Tomas Vokoun stopped 31 shots for Nashville's first shutout as the Predators snapped a four-game winless streak.

Stars 3, Mighty Ducks 1

Mike Modano had a goal and two assists and Mike Keane added a power-play goal as visiting Dallas ended Paul Kariya's club-record point-scoring streak on home ice at 17 games.

Sharks 3, Penguins 2

Owen Nolan had an assist on the tying goal and scored the game-winning shot with 2:13 remaining.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	22	9	10	54	123	82
New Jersey	23	13	5	51	121	108
Pittsburgh	19	12	7	45	112	102
N.Y. Rangers	17	18	7	41	115	117
N.J. Devils	13	27	3	29	99	128

Northeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	24	15	3	51	136	120
Ottawa	23	13	5	51	127	93
Buffalo	22	12	6	50	113	83
Boston	19	15	6	44	105	91
Montreal	16	20	7	39	99	113

Southeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	19	14	7	45	109	103
Atlanta	14	15	11	39	102	108
Washington	15	22	3	33	92	183
Tampa Bay	9	30	3	21	87	149

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	22	10	2	46	127	112
St. Louis	16	14	9	41	107	98
Nashville	15	23	4	34	97	131
Chicago	12	25	4	30	93	137

Northwest Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	19	19	4	42	103	107
Edmonton	17	19	6	40	119	112
Vancouver	14	23	5	33	107	126
Calgary	14	26	3	31	104	131

Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	27	7	7	61	120	78
Phoenix	23	11	5	51	105	81
Anheim	16	18	8	40	102	98
San Jose	16	18	8	38	95	99
Los Angeles	16	22	4	36	99	108

Thursday's results: Carolina 3, Florida 2; Ottawa 3, New Jersey 2; Detroit 2, Nashville 1 (OT); Edmonton 3, Vancouver 1; Los Angeles 3, Calgary 0.

Galil tries to break away

By ELI GROMER

Galil Elyon will try to break away from a three-way tie for fourth place when it hosts Bnei Herzliya in National Basketball League action tonight (Channel 5, 20:45).

The northerners are coming off an embarrassing loss to Maccabi Haifa last week, and tonight's game will be a good indication if coach David Blatt's club will be a serious Final Four contender. At its best, Galil has played some of the league's top basketball this year, including a fantastic home win over Maccabi Tel Aviv last month. Blatt's club is paced by its three foreigners - Theo Cizmic, Herman Alston and Jamie Arnold - and when they are all on, Galil is as tough a road opponent as the league has to offer.

But while Galil has been up-and-down this year, Herzliya has downright streaky. When point guard Terrence Rancher is in top form, there's not a guard in the league who can stop him. However, lately he has been forcing up several bad shots a game, contributing to Herzliya's current slump.

Other games tonight: Hapoel Eilat vs. Maccabi Ramat Gan; Maccabi Tel Aviv vs. Ramat Gan; Hapoel Holon vs. Givat Shimon; Hapoel Jerusalem vs. Hapoel Tel Aviv; Maccabi Rishon vs. Maccabi Haifa.

Orange Basketball League	W	L	Pts
Hapoel Jerusalem	12	1	25
Maccabi Tel Aviv	9	1	22
Hapoel Holon	9	4	22
Maccabi Ramat Gan	7	6	20
Galil Elyon	7	6	20
Bnei Herzliya	7	6	20
Hapoel Eilat	6	7	19
Maccabi Rishon	6	7	19
Bnei Herzliya	5	8	18
Givat Shimon	3	10	16
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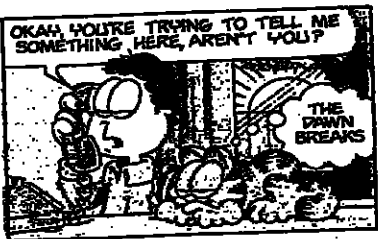
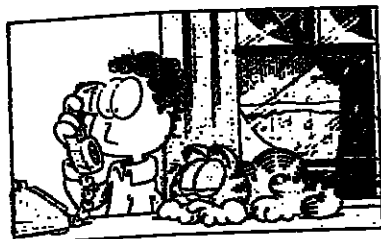
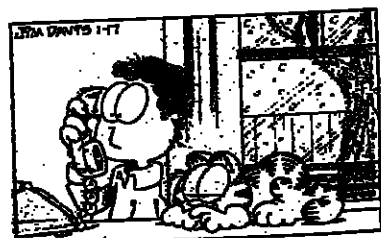
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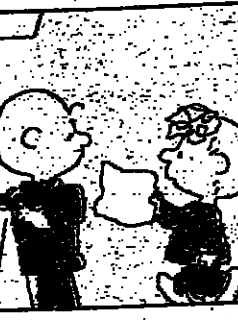
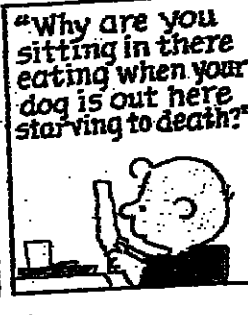
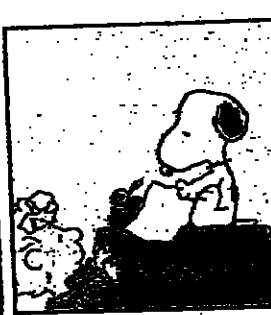
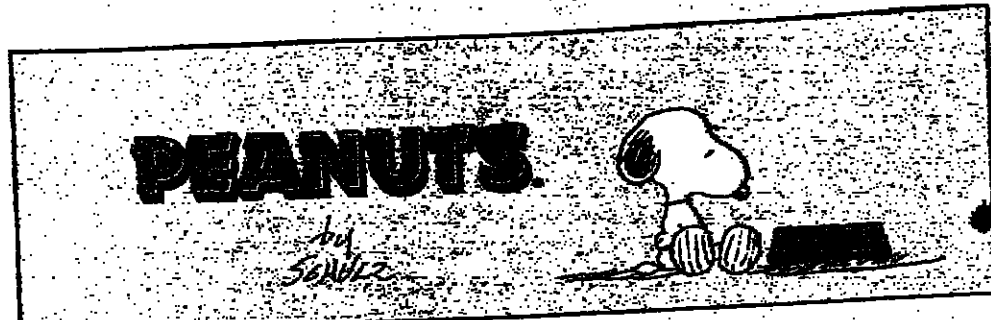
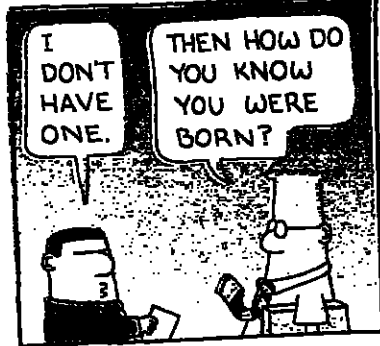
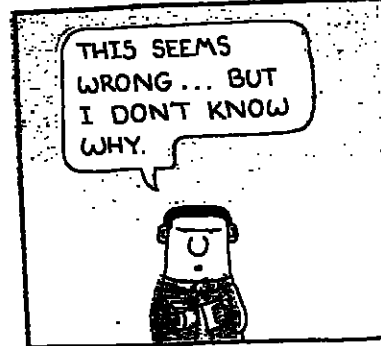
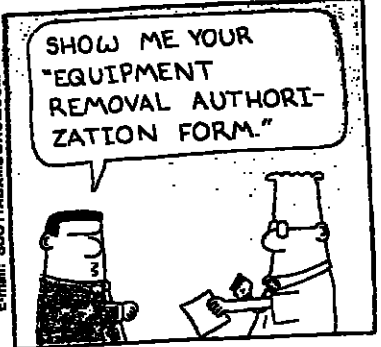
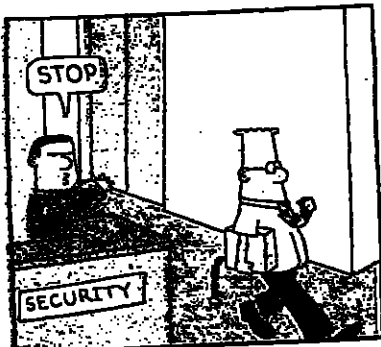
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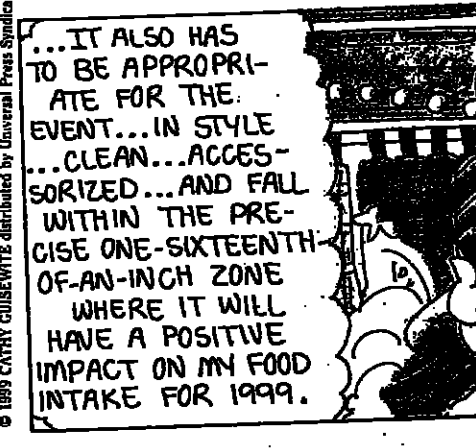
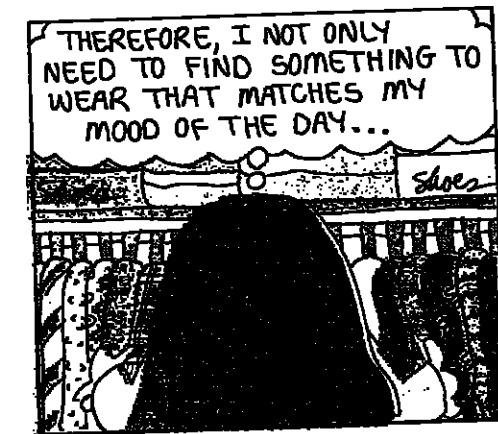
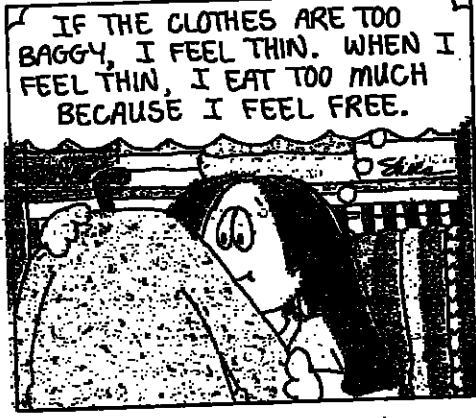
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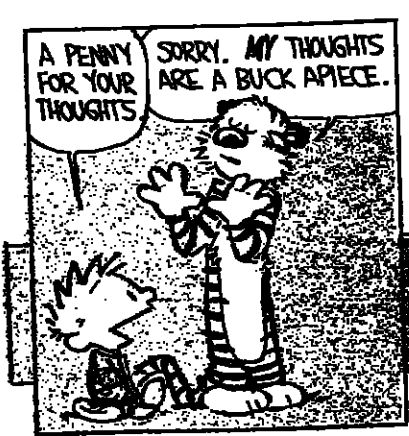
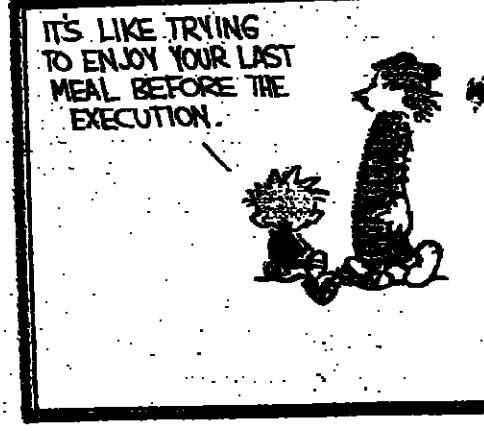
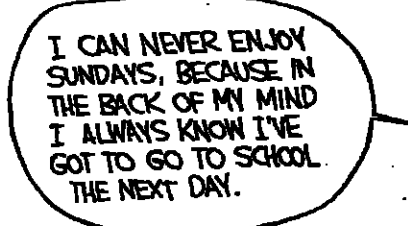


BY CATHY GUISEWITE

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No. 1 beats No. 2

Di Matteo strike keeps Chelsea top



LONDON (AP) — Roberto Di Matteo's match-winning strike in the third minute of injury time kept Chelsea at the top of the Premier League in a 2-1 victory over Coventry yesterday after Manchester United looked like taking over with a 6-2 win at Leicester.

The Italian midfielder fired his first goal of the season for a turnaround Chelsea win after Darren Huckerby, scorer of two hat-tricks in the last two weeks, had given Coventry the lead.

It looked like Coventry, the last team to beat Chelsea on the opening day of the campaign, would complete a remarkable double, but French World Cup defender Franck Leboeuf leveled with a 25-meter strike, the final kick of the first half.

With time running out in the second, it looked as if Gianluca Vialli's team would lose the Premier League leadership on goal difference to Manchester United before Di Matteo scored with a shot from the edge of the area.

It was a frustrating ending for



GRAND LARCENY — Manchester United's Swedish midfielder Jesper Blomqvist (r) steals the ball from Leicester City's Neil Lennon. Manchester won in a 6-2 rout.

Standings, results, Page 13

Sky Blues. Six minutes from the final whistle there was a scuffle between the two benches and the referee "expelled" Coventry manager Gordon Strachan, ordering him to move into the stands.

Dwight Yorke scored three times. Andy Cole hit two and there was a rare strike from Dutch defender Jaap Stam as United powered six goals past Leicester's American goalkeeper, Kasey Keller, at Filbert Street.

The result pushes Alex Ferguson's team up to second place above Aston Villa, which can regain it by beating Everton tomorrow. Chelsea has 43 points, United 41 and Villa 40.

Arsenal stayed fourth on 39 points by earning a 1-0 win at last place Nottingham Forest who had veteran manager Ron Atkinson in charge for the first time.

Martin Keown scored the Gunners' winner at the City Ground and Forest, who have not won in the league for 18 games, remain last with only 13 points. Next-to-last Charlton host Newcastle today and even a tie would leave Forest adrift by four points.

Liverpool romped to a 7-1 victory over second from last

Southampton with Robbie Fowler scoring three times. Dominic Matteo scored his first and there were more from Jamie Carragher, Michael Owen and David Thompson.

Six-goal Manchester United and seven-goal Liverpool meet next week in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

West Ham's grim week ended with a 4-0 loss at home to Sheffield Wednesday.

The Hammers were ousted from the FA Cup by division three Swansea on Wednesday and sold striker John Hartson to Wimbledon on Friday amid fears that the club was having to sell its best players to stay financially viable.

Goals by Andy Hinchliffe, Peter Rudi, Ritchie Humphreys and Benito Carbone gave Wednesday a one-sided victory.

See PREMIER, Page 13

Hartson signs for Dons

LONDON (AP) — John Hartson moved from West Ham to Wimbledon in a £7.5 million transfer deal on Friday.

While the tall, 23-year-old Welsh international was signing for the fifth-highest transfer fee between English clubs, Hartson's new Wimbledon teammates, known as the Crazy Gang because of their wild behavior, hung his £1,000 suit outside the locker room window and set fire to it.

Hartson achieved widespread notoriety when, an altercation with West Ham teammate and Israel international Eyal Berkovic ended by Hartson kicking the latter in the face. The pair subsequently resolved their grievances.

Wimbledon owner Sam Hammam said it was the sort of traditional welcome the players are famous for and would remind Hartson he would get no superstar treatment despite being easily the club's most expensive acquisition.

Hammam's team, often criticized for its crude style of long-ball tactics, repeatedly aiming high

crosses to its tall, muscular strikers, has climbed to sixth in the standings and is targeting a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

Until this transfer, which will be paid by installments, the club has never been able to compete with the big spenders. It has a following of only 7,000 fans and doesn't even own its own stadium. It shares Selhurst Park with division one Crystal Palace.

"My attitude is always to try to be stronger than we were the day before. It's as simple as that," Hammam said.

"Hartson's an addition to make Wimbledon stronger and that's it. The money is not an issue at all. It's football. We are a football club. I am not a city man, or a yuppie, I'm a football man," Hammam said.

"Ben Thatcher, Kenny Cunningham, Dean Blackwell, Michael Hughes, Jason Euell and Carl Cort are all in that category. We've got Hartson to try to complete the bouquet."

Parcells, Shanahan match track records



DENVER (AP) — The challenge for the New York Jets is to dethrone the Super Bowl champions. In their home, where they almost never

lose. And, perhaps, in John Elway's last game before the adoring Denver fans.

One weapon nearly everyone concedes could be a difference-maker for the Jets is coach Bill Parcells.

Even his counterpart, Mike Shanahan, mentioned the value of Parcells during Friday's news conference. He noted how Parcells rebuilt the Jets from a 1-15 laughingstock to AFC East winners and the visiting team in today's AFC Championship game.

"He has proven over time that he is the best in the business," Shanahan said. "He's done a great job there and done it consistently wherever he's been. What he's done with the Jets over the last two years, I take my hat off to him."

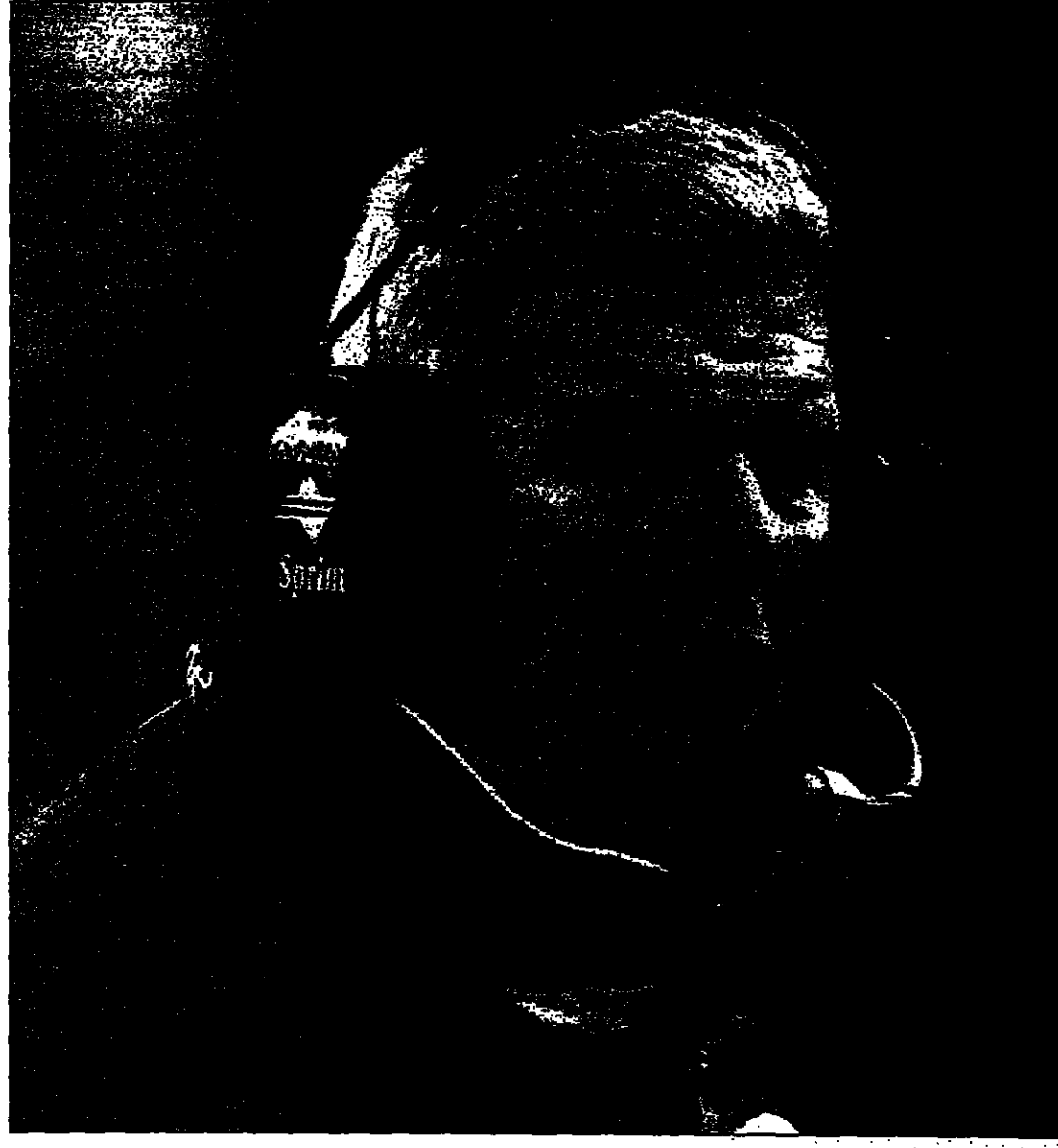
So does Elway, who, surprisingly, said he has never met Parcells, but admired his work from afar.

"Look at this track record," Elway said of the man who has won two Super Bowls with the Patriots and never lost a conference title game. "There's no question he's got to be one of the top coaches in the league. He's done it all." But Elway, who came back to the Broncos this season to be just where he is — playing for a spot in his fifth Super Bowl — has his own candidate for best coach around, Shanahan, of course.

"In the last three years, what Mike did in turning us around after some mediocre years in the early '90s, going 13-3, then 12-4 and winning the Super Bowl and 14-2 this year," Elway presented as evidence. "People say the toughest thing is to repeat, and we're back to where we can get back to the Super Bowl."

"He has only been here for four years and I feel he already is taken for granted. It's not easy what he has done. I don't think anyone compares to Mike Shanahan. When the time comes, he'll get his due."

That could be today, if his team



OLD YELLER — NY Jets coach Bill Parcells.

subdues the Jets. "I think you always get a little juiced up when you're going against a coach who has had a lot of success, and obviously a coach who has a couple of Super Bowl rings," Shanahan said.

Parcells, who admires Shanahan's work, praises how the Broncos conduct themselves. "The Broncos have won so many games in the last few years. I don't think anything that happens on the field is going to damage their mentality," said Parcells, who with a fourth straight victory in a conference championship game — two came with the Giants

and one with the Patriots — would be the first man to coach three franchises to the Super Bowl.

"They get behind, they think they are going to come back ... I don't think we're speaking about fragile mentalities at this time of the season," he said.

While, as Shanahan readily notes, the players will decide the game, those players often cite how the coaches put them in position to succeed. Jets running back Curtis Martin, who played two seasons with the Patriots for Parcells and was signed as a free agent before the '98 campaign, believes fans are seeing the coach at his pinnacle.

"This is the best I've ever seen him coach in the two or three years I've been with him," Martin said. "He has such a great balance. He's the toughest, toughest coach, but at the same time he's taking care of the players. We're not all tired and beat up going into the game."

See NFL, Page 13

Israeli sailing duo take 4th in Melbourne

By HEATHER CRAIG

Israel's hopes for a medal in the world sailing championships in Melbourne were dashed yesterday as the women's team, Shani Kedon and Anat Fabrikant, finished in fourth place, missing the bronze medal by five points.

In the final two races in the 470-Olympic division, the Israelis placed eighth and third for an overall total of 58 points.

The Ukrainian team of Ruslana Taran and Olena Pakholchik, who had been dwarfed throughout the championships by the Ward sisters from Denmark, squeezed through to win their fourth world title by a one-point difference.

Their total score was 44, one better than the Danes who took the silver medal with Italy winning the bronze.

The Israeli women missed a medal but still qualify for the Sydney Olympics, an honor which eluded the three Israeli men's teams in the championships.

Eli Zuckerman and Elad Ronen finished in ninth place with results of 15 and six from their 11th and 12th races, for a final total of 98 points.

In 10th place were the Shental brothers, Nir and Ran, who represented Israel in the Atlanta Olympics, with 103 points.

The French team of Benoit Petit and Francois Cuzon had a final score of 55 points to win the gold medal, depositing title holders and compatriots Gildas Philippe and Tanguy Cariou who ended in fifth place.

Sweden's team of Johan Mohund and Mattias Rahm took second place with 67 points.

New hoops league inaugurated

VILNIUS (AP) — A new basketball league incorporating the top teams from the Baltic states and Scandinavia was officially launched Friday as it ceremony in Vilnius.

The first full season of the new North European Basketball League will begin in 2000.

Teams include Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway.

Sports Editor: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

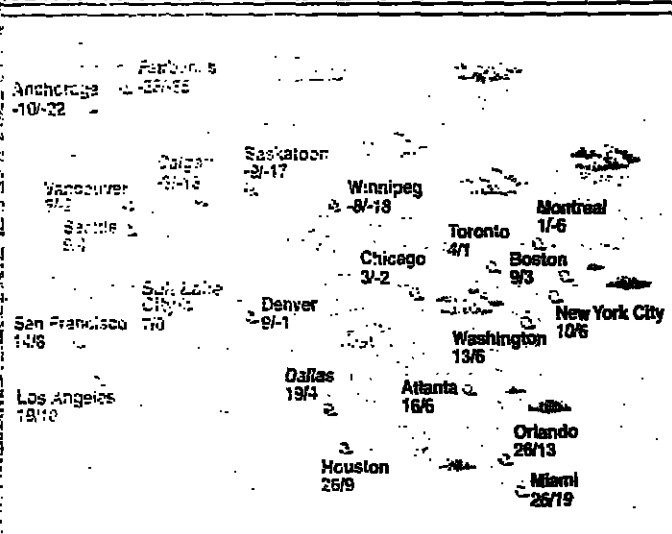
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Be'er Sheva	18/9	13/5	64/59
Netanya	18/9	13/5	64/59
Ashdod	18/9	13/5	64/59
Haifa	18/9	13/5	64/59
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Ashdod	18/9	13/5	64/59

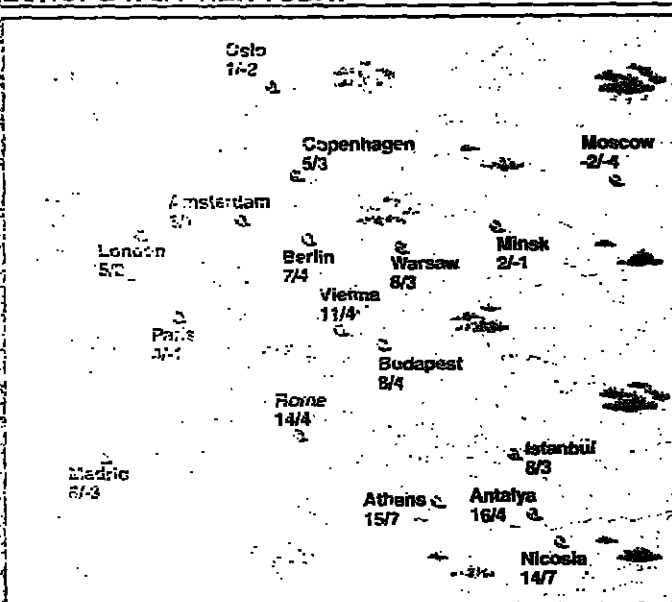
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Paris	18/9	13/5	64/59
Rome	18/9	13/5	64/59
Madrid	18/9	13/5	64/59
Barcelona	18/9	13/5	64/59
Amsterdam	18/9	13/5	64/59
Brussels	18/9	13/5	64/59
Frankfurt	18/9	13/5	64/59
Munich	18/9	13/5	64/59
Zurich	18/9	13/5	64/59
Geneva	18/9	13/5	64/59
Basel	18/9	13/5	64/59
Vienna	18/9	13/5	64/59
Budapest	18/9	13/5	64/59
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Copenhagen	18/9	13/5	64/59
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Riga	18/9	13/5	64/59
Vilnius	18/9	13/5	64/59
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Moscow	18/9	13/5	64/59
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Verkhne-Khetengsk	18/9	13/5	64/59
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